TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION, VOL. 5

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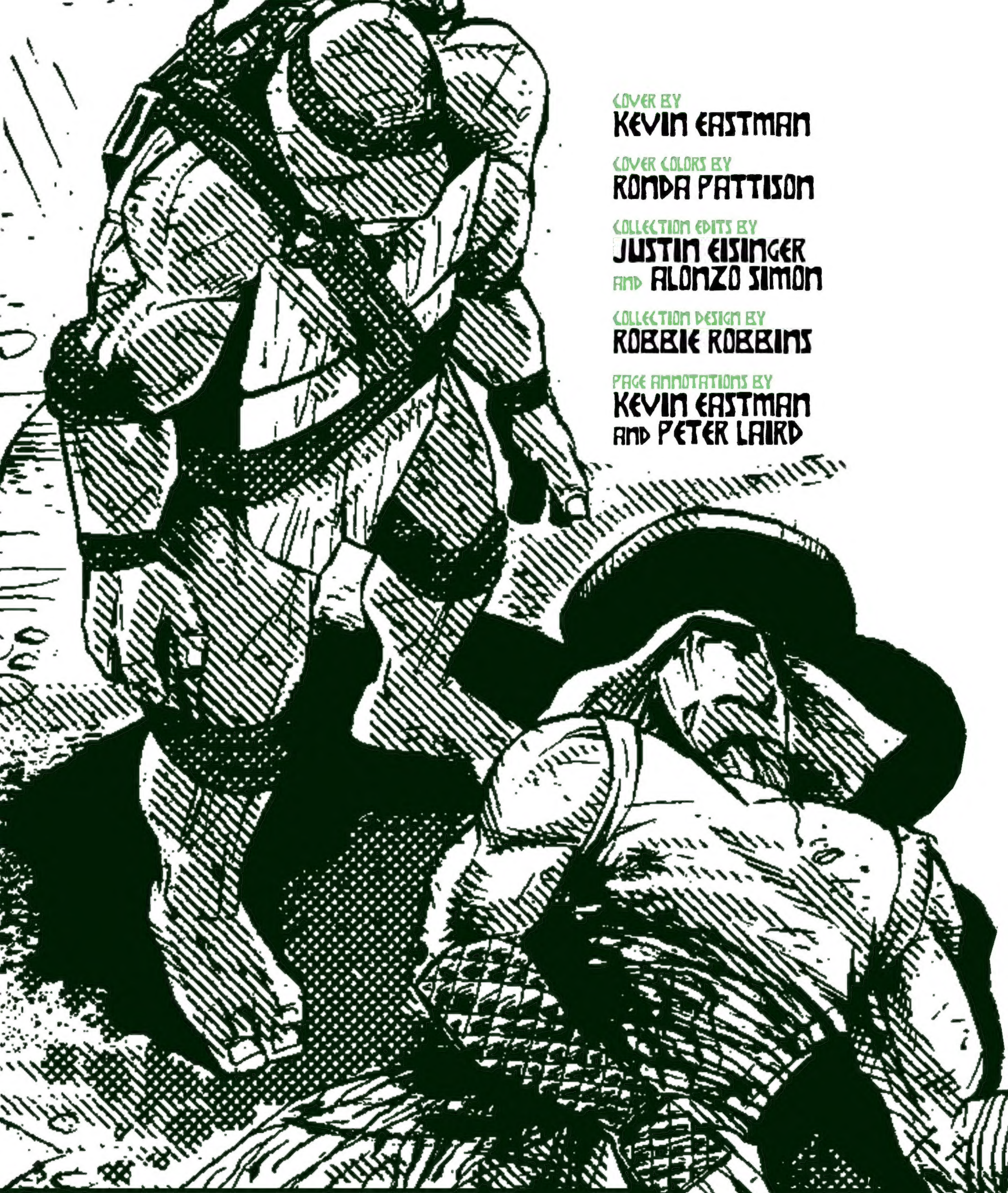

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PAGE 4

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES #56

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City At War, Part Seven.

PAGE 30

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES #57

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Letters byy Mary Kelleher
City At War, Part Eight.

PAGE 56

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES #58

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Letters byy Mary Kelleher
City At War, Part Nine.

PAGE 82

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES #59

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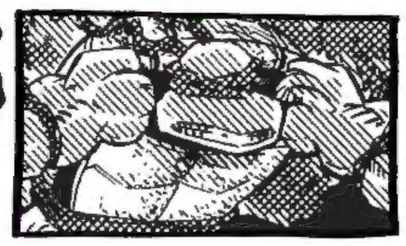
Pencils by Jim Lawson, Inks by Keith Aiken, Tones by Eric Talbot,
Letters by Mary Kelleher
City At War, Part Ten.

PAGE 108 

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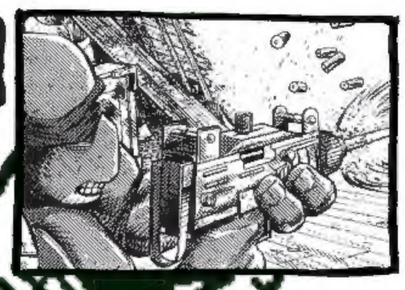
City At War, Part Eleven.

PAGE 134 

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Letters by Mary Kelleher
City At War, Part Twelve.

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TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES #62

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City At War, Part Thirteen.

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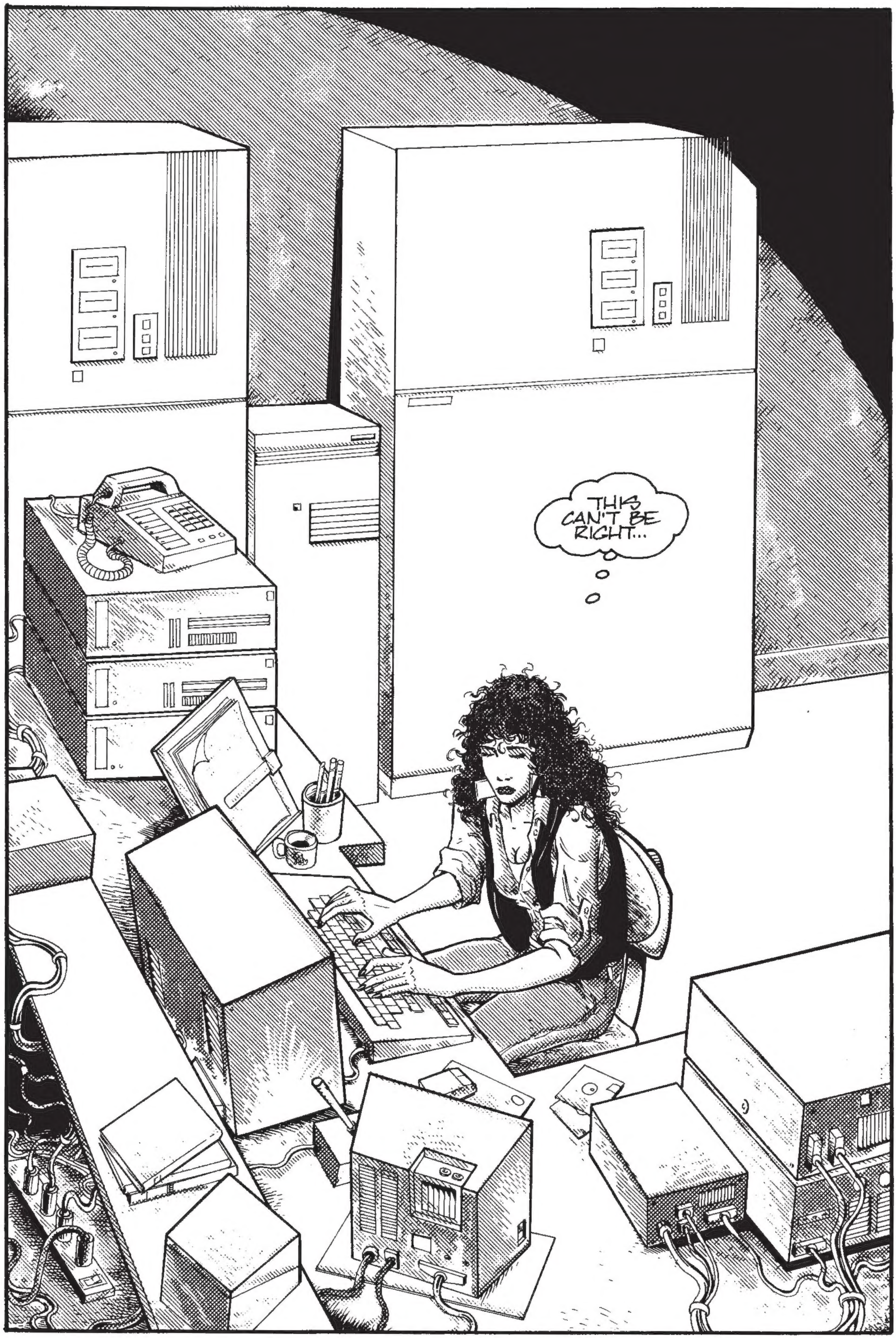
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

PART SEVEN OF THIRTEEN

CITY AT WAR

#56


THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT...

HEY, LES?

KNOK

YEAH, APRIL?

WHAT'S UP?

I'VE SPENT MOST OF THE DAY REWRITING THIS CAD PROGRAM FOR THE 386'S DOWN IN THE DRAFTING DIVISION...

UH-HUH?

WELL, SALLY FROM DRAFTING JUST TOLD ME THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO BE SWITCHING OVER TO MACS NEXT MONTH... AND THAT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT HARDWARE.

YEAH? SO?

SO... ISN'T ALL THIS A WASTE OF MY TIME?

2

NO, IT'S NOT.

IT WILL BE A WASTE OF TIME WHEN I SAY ITS A WASTE OF TIME...

...NOT BEFORE.

BUT LES, THAT'S--

APRIL, WE HIRED YOU TO DO A JOB--NOT ROCK THE BOAT!

NOW GET YOUR BUTT BACK TO YOUR OFFICE AND DO THE DAMNED WORK!

JERK...

STICE
F THE
EACE

--PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE.

A-D

R-S

D-K

L-Z

YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE, MR. JONES...

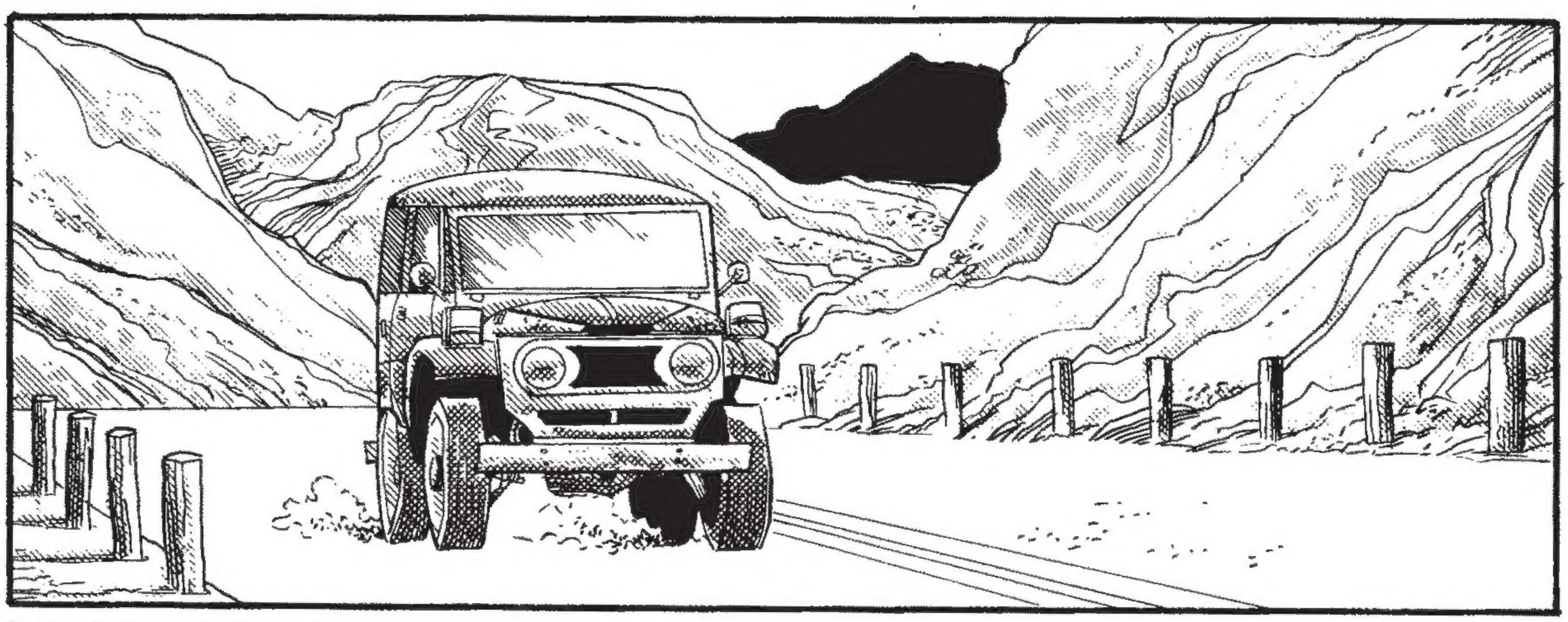
THANKS, YER HONOR!

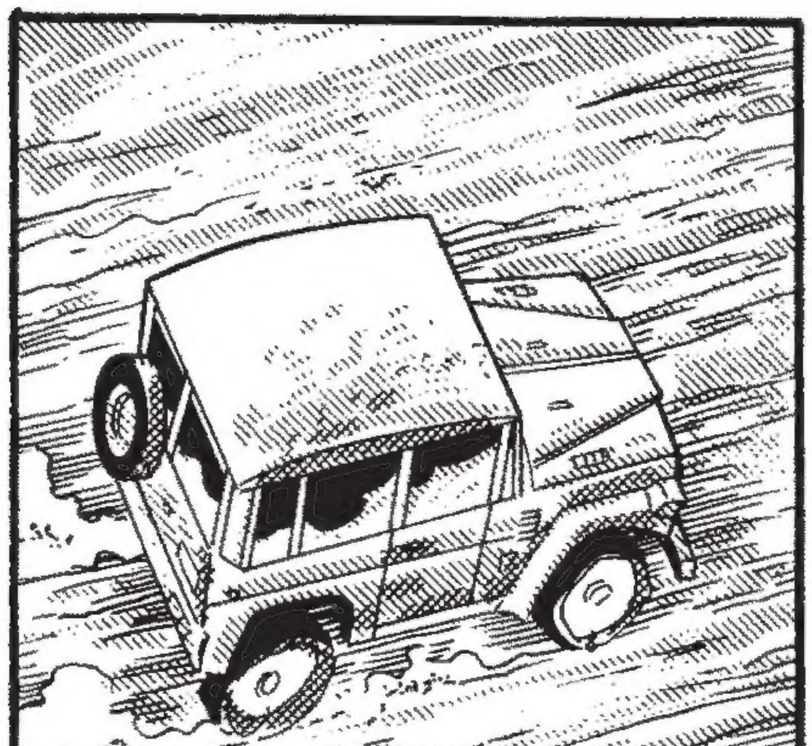
YOU'RE WELCOME...

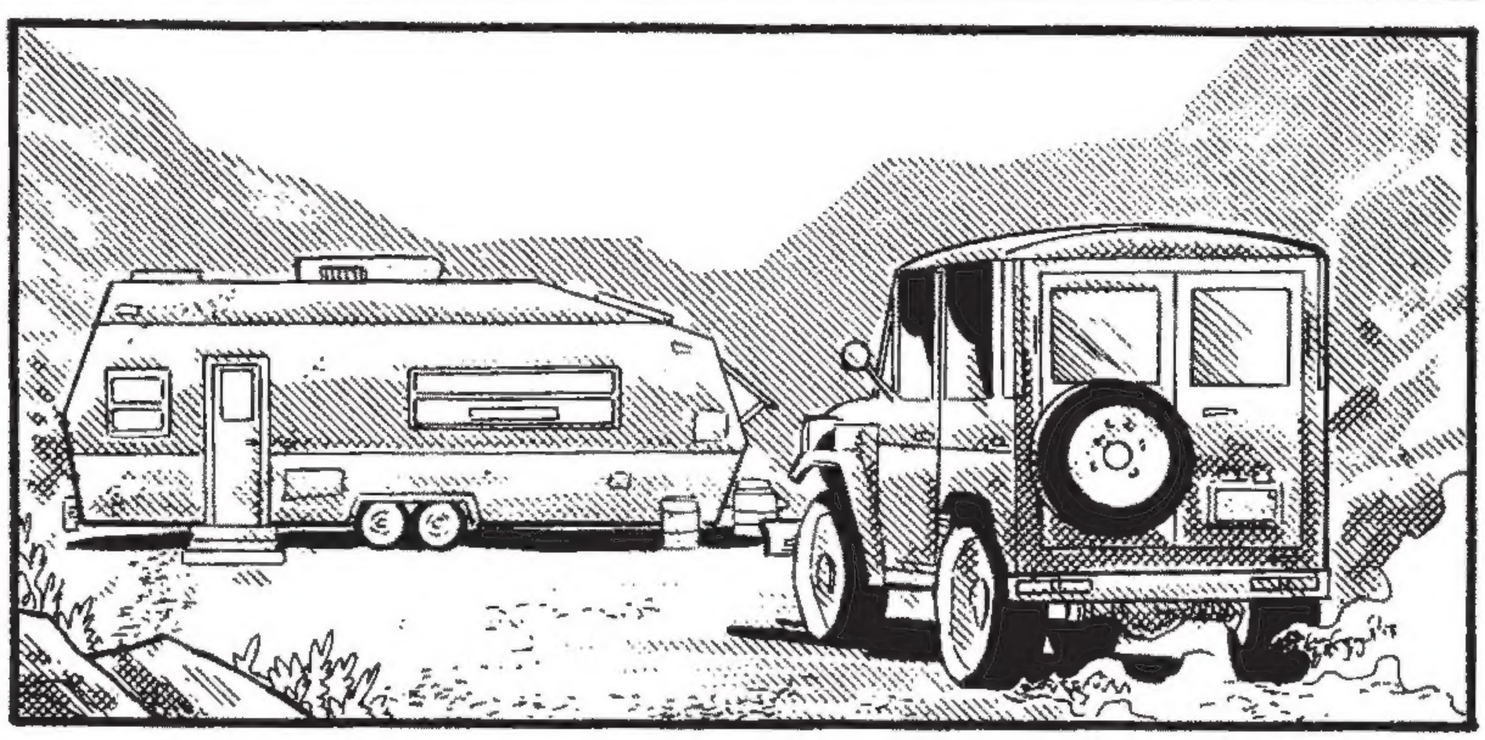
YOU KIDS TAKE GOOD CARE OF THAT BABY NOW...!

WE SURE WILL...

4

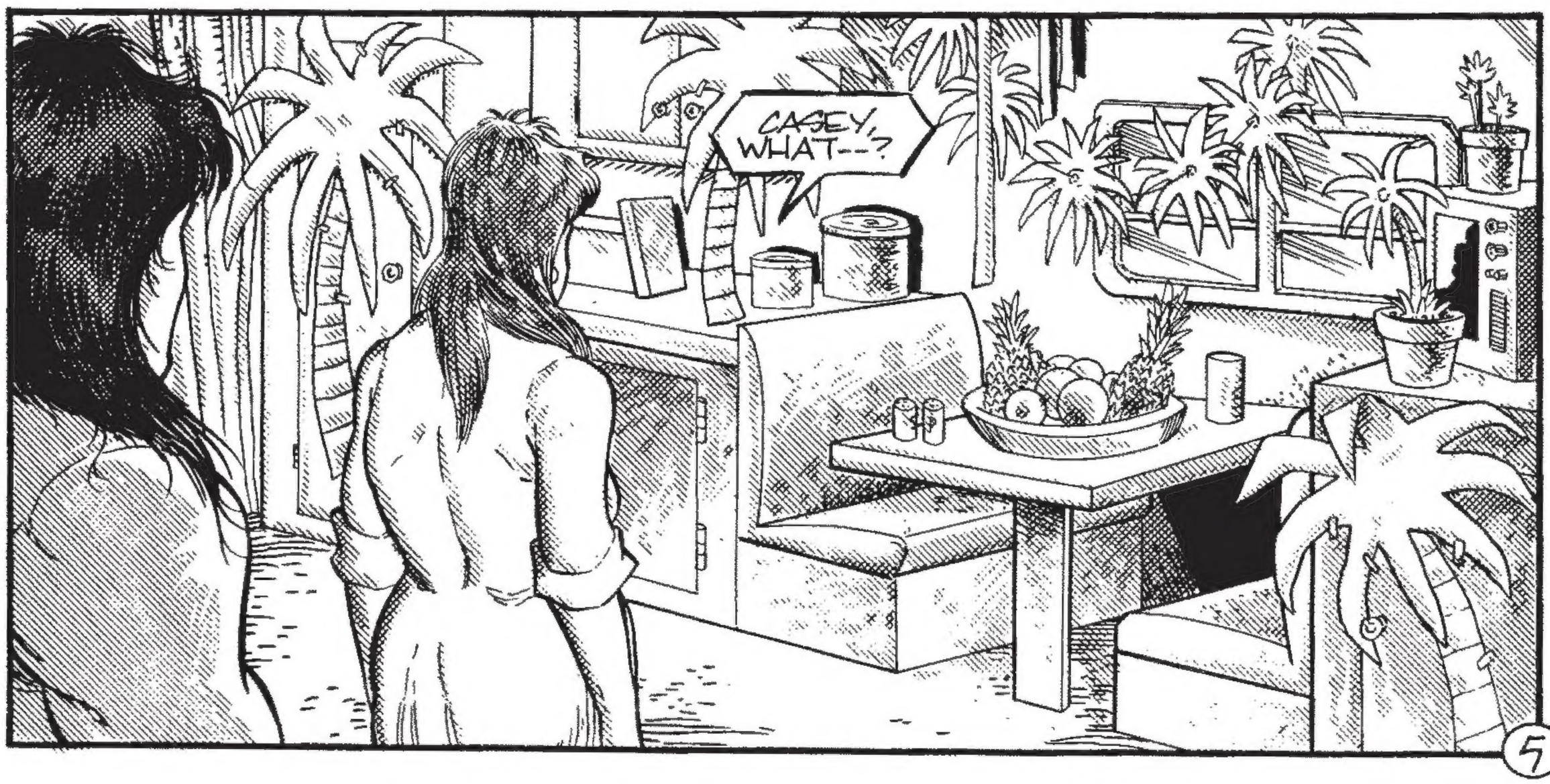






RIGHT THIS WAY, MRS. JONES!

WHOA...HOT IN HERE...CASEY, DID YOU LEAVE--
OMIGOSH...


CASEY, WHAT--?
5

HERE, GABE--PUT THESE ON.

Y'SEE, I WAS BUMMED 'CAUSE WE COULDN'T AFFORD A REAL HONEYMOON, SO I THOUGHT I'D CONVERT THE TRAILER INTO OUR OWN LITTLE TROPICAL ISLAND...

CALL IT...UM... "TRAILERIQUE"!

OH, CASE-- THAT'S SO ROMANTIC!

YEAH... I SURPRISE MYSELF SOMETIMES...

AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

....CHECK IT OUT!

OH, BOY-- MAI TAIS!

VIRGIN, I HOPE...

YEP... ONLY THING ON THIS HERE ISLAND THAT IS...

YUK YUK!

YOU BIG NUT!

6

UNGH...

URHARRGH--!!

HUNGER CONVULSES YOUR BODY... YOU MUST EAT SOON.

EAT *WHAT*!? THERE IS NOTHING HERE...

THERE IS... BUT YOU REFUSE TO SEE IT...

SEE... WHAT?

YOU... CANNOT EXPECT ME TO-- TO...

YOUR SITUATION IS DIRE. AND GIVEN TIME...

...THEY WILL EAT YOU.

NO... I-- I... MUST NOT...

FOOL! DON'T LET YOUR QUEST FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF BEING BLIND YOU TO THIS FACT: YOU ARE HUNGRY... AND YOU ARE DYING OF IT.

BLIND CHANCE HAS LED YOU TO THIS CROSSROADS OF DESTINY...

...BUT ONLY TRUE CLARITY OF VISION CAN SET YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH.

GAH!!! ENOUGH... YOUR WORDS... MAKE MY HEAD SWIM... CONFUSE ME...

...I CANNOT SURRENDER TO THE DARKNESS OF BRUTE NECESSITY... I WILL NOT... ALLOW IT!

THEN YOUR QUEST ENDS HERE... ENDS NOW.

POOR MAN-BEAST... YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT YOUR ANIMAL NATURE BLOCKS YOU FROM YOUR GOAL OF PURE, PERFECT THOUGHT...

8

TELL ME... WHEN YOU REACH THAT EXALTED PLANE...

...WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND THERE?

I...I DON'T KNOW...

WHAT IF IT IS... THE RAT? THE ANIMAL ...THE PRAGMATIC SCAVENGER...

...THE SURVIVOR?

HEY--! HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

LOUSY. YOURS?

DITTO... ONE OF MY CLIENT'S FINANCING FELL THROUGH, SO I LOST THE SALE.

TREVOR'S GONE?

YUP... COLIN PICKED HIM UP EARLY THIS AFT...

SO... WHAT D'YOU WANT FOR DINNER?

I DON'T CARE ...WHATEVER.

WELL, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY-THING HERE...

OF COURSE NOT...

HEY! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

OH, ROBYN...

...JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE!

YOU ARE THE MOST UNORGANIZED, IRRESPONSIBLE PERSON I KNOW!

YOU COME OUT HERE ALL SCREWED UP FROM SOME WEIRD RELATIONSHIP YOU CAN'T EVEN TALK ABOUT... I OPEN MY HOUSE TO YOU, GIVE YOU A SHOULDER TO CRY ON...

...AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS CRITICIZE ME AND MY LIFE?!!

CHILL OUT, ROBYN... I JUST SAID--

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID... AND I'M SICK OF HEARING IT!

MOM'S DEAD... AND YOU'RE NOT DAD!

11

SQUEE!

CHREE CHRR

AARRH!

I...CANNOT...

TO DENY THE INNER BEAST...MEANS YOUR DEATH...

BETTER THEN...TO... DIE...

12

YOUR STUDENTS... THEY CALL YOU "MASTER" SPLINTER.

HUMH! SOME MASTER YOU ARE!

I TRULY EXPECTED MUCH MORE OF SUCH A UNIQUE CREATURE... BUT YOU ARE AS WEAK AND CONFUSED AS ANY MERE HUMAN.

YET... YOU... ARE HUMAN...

NO...

...I REJECTED MY HUMANITY... A LONG TIME AGO.

13

"SOMETHING HAS CHANGED... THEY ARE MORE CARELESS."

HMM...

LETS GO INSIDE...

"WE'VE BEEN MONITORING THEM FOR TWO DAYS... SINCE WE TRACKED THEM TO THIS LAIR..."

HERE'S A SUMMARY OF THEIR ACTIVITIES...

WE'VE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW THEM WHEN THEY LEAVE THE TOWER, BUT--

THEY ARE ALL THERE NOW?

IN THE WATER TOWER? YES.

14

HAVE YOU SEEN TO IT THAT THE BUILDING IS SECURE? ALL EXITS COVERED?

YES, ALL OF OUR MEN SHOULD BE IN POSITION NOW...

CAN WE TRUST THESE FOOT "SOLDIERS"? THEY WERE ONCE SAKI'S...

OROKU SAKI IS GONE... AND WITH HIM, HIS LEADERSHIP.

THESE FOOT WARRIORS ARE LIKE WOLVES WITH SHEEPS' BRAINS...

...THEY LIVE TO BE LED...

...AND I NOW LEAD THEM.

"IF ONLY CONTROLLING ALL THE OTHER FACTORS WERE THAT EASY..."

BUT FOR NOW...

SIGNAL THE DEMO SQUAD... BEGIN THE ASSAULT.

YES, KARAI.

LET'S GO!

15

MORE POKER?

YEAH... YA WANT IN?

NAH... I'VE ALREADY LOST EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE SHELL OFF MY BACK...

I'LL SETTLE FOR SOME NICE, SAFE--

CHICK

HEY...?

WHOA!

WHAT TH'--?!!

--SOUNDED LIKE SHAPED CHARGES!

THE JOINT'S ON FIRE-- LET'S BOOK!

COUGH!

WHERE'S MIKE?

COFF!

LET'S GO UP-- THROUGH THE ROOF!

NO-- OUT THE WEST WALL-!

HUH...?

KRAK

YAAH!

THE FOOT!

OH, MAN...

UNH...

NOT AGAIN...!

18

DAMN!
20
JL KARZ

YANURA!

THIS FIGHT IS ESCALATING TOO RAPIDLY--I WANT THE TURTLEMEN ALIVE! TELL THE FIRST TEAM TO WITHDRAW AND BRING UP THE TASERS!

FIRST ASSAULT TEAM, WITHDRAW!

TASER SQUAD... NOW!

HUH?

SOMETHING'S UP, GUYS...

AN' HERE IT COMES!

TIK

TIK

WHAT THE HECK--?!

UH-OH! TASERS!

LEO-- MOVE IT!

AGH--!!

ZZT!

OH, NO--LEO!!!

AADRRGH!

ZZT!

ZZT!

LEO!

AAAGH!

ZZT!

UNGHHH..

ZZT!

ZZT!

ZZR!

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--!

NO-- NOT WITHOUT LEO!

COME ON, MIKE--IF WE STAY WE'LL ALL BE CAPTURED!

22

ARR--! I HATE THIS!

YAH--!

TOK

1555-4290 CALL ME

23

HELLO? YES...YES, I AM... WHAT? OH, NO...

YES... YES, OF COURSE ...WE'LL BE THERE... THANK YOU...

WHO WAS THAT?

APRIL ...WHAT'S WRONG?

...THE NURSING HOME..

THAT WAS... EMPIRE ESTATES...

ROBYN... THEY SAID...

WHAT?

DAD... HE DIED THIS MORNING.

THE END

THE BIRTH OF THE COLLECTED GUZZI LEMANS

TAYLOR

6 TO GO

ANNOTATIONS

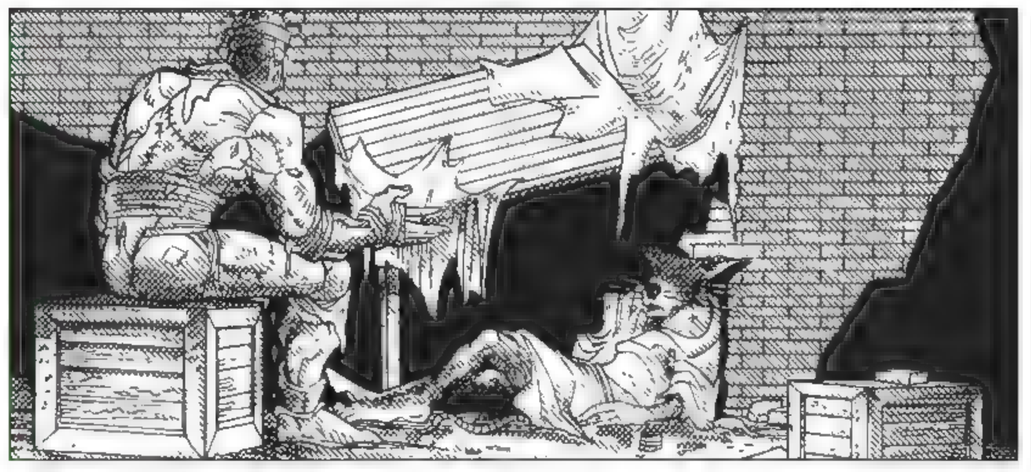
KEVIN EASTMAN

Almost a year had passed since the release of *TMNT* #48, the prologue for the 12-issue "City at War" run (nine months, to be specific), and when I REALLY try to re-connect and seriously think about what was going on at that time, it is pretty astonishing. Work covered with hair and teeth (as we used to say back then), and it really, REALLY was intense and overwhelming. Besides the third *TMNT* film on the release horizon, Mirage was co-managing the worldwide licensing program, which was a MIND-BLOWING amount of work, most of which was being done in-house at the studio with on-staff artists and writers, things like designing toys for the latest Playmates releases, video-game covers, board games, coloring books, packaging the Archie-published *TMNT* series, as well as the regular Mirage Studios series. Around this time Tundra was also growing a million miles a minute, which included several of my own creator-owned projects. Also, the Words and Pictures Museum had opened, where I worked with my team to design all the shows and events, and I was also editor in chief of *Heavy Metal* magazine, choosing all the content for every issue. I had investments in a film company, a music/recording studio, and had opened a UK-based arm of Tundra Publishing, all while we had this little project: the longest TMNT story arc EVER that needed time and input from me, to help it move along—which, at the end of the day, I just couldn't find... Yes, Peter and I sketched out the broad strokes of the story, but it was really Peter and Jim who did all the real legwork here, figuring out the beats and making it all work. Adding to that was Jim's strong pencil work, Keith Aiken's inks, and one of my other favorite parts: A.C. Farley's covers. The series was cranking and the fans were digging it, and so was I. Someone asked me recently in an interview what I thought of all the different creative voices in our creations, and without a beat, I told them, "Well, I feel that I grew up with that being a normal part of the comics I was already reading." New writers and artists would come in, re-work, build on, add to the characters I loved, and some were better than the others. Either way, I LOVED the perspective and the perception and the passion each new team brought to the TMNT mix… With that in mind, let's dig into the second part of the "City at War" saga!

The pacing that had been well established by Peter Laird and Jim Lawson in the first half of the "City at War" saga not only continues here, but I feel like it gets better and tighter. The cross-cutting between the different "life-changing" story arcs for each of the characters, across the board, become more intense and even better intertwined.

Pages 1: The "April at work" scene is classic, and well captured. Her frustration dealing with a new program is totally Peter Laird-scripted. Perfect.

Pages 5-6: Casey and Gabe getting married in this issue is beautifully romantic, especially for Casey as a character, as it shows and strengthens his growth as a real person—and the "Honeymoon Suite" scene is genius. I really thought all of this was wonderfully designed and well told by Peter and Jim.



Pages 7-9: Splinter and his dialogue with the Rat King as he drifts in and out of reality is awesome: watching him wrestle with his morals and even be willing to die because he won't eat the food available—RATS! The way it is structured leads you to wonder if the Rat King is really there, or if it is just part of his hallucinations… sweet.

Pages 10: Nice "sisters" scene between April and Robyn. Nice build for the things to come.

Pages 16: Karai's discovery of the TMNT's water tower hideout and the following attack work so VERY well. Intense, with really great action scenes by Jim, some of his best work up to this point in TMNT history.

Pages 20: Karai's VERY effective management of the Foot re-organization and dealing with the TMNTs is well established here, including bringing in guns and tasers instead of just the traditional Ninja weaponry.

Pages 22: Leo getting captured and the others leaving works well as a device. Although it was hard to believe they WOULD leave, it needed to be done for the next step to work: Karai sending an arrow with a message to call her.

Pages 24: April and Robyn's Dad passing: great wrap-up for the issue!

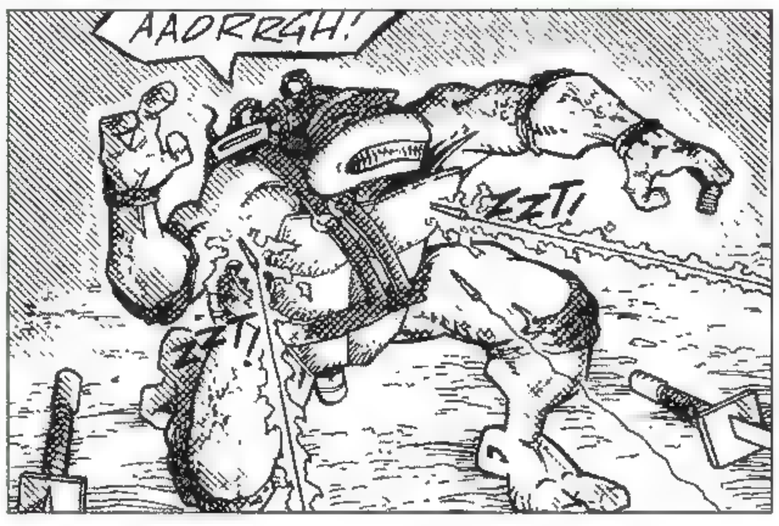
PETER LAIRD

The lighting, the detail, the color… what a great Craig Farley cover!

Page 1: Look at all that funky 1990s-era computer hardware—huge boxy hard drives! SCSI cables! Big fat monitors! How things change…

Pages 7–9 and 12–13: I think this whole sequence with Splinter and the Rat King is one of the best things we've ever done in the TMNT books. I still get some chills reading the dialogue between the two of them, as the Rat King subtly leads Splinter down the road of doing what is necessary—but nearly unthinkable—for his survival.

Page 19: Here we have another random shot of the old guy who was injured in the explosion at the sex shop (in issue #50). I kind of wish we had ditched that whole thing.



Page 22: Great pencils by Jim, inks by Keith, and tones by Eric really sell this brutal scene of Leonardo being taken down by tasers. Ouch!

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TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

EIGHT OF THIRTEEN

CITY AT WAR

#57

RIGHT... YES... WE'LL BE THERE.

PHONE

THINK IT'S A TRAP?

USUALLY I'D SAY "YEAH"... BUT THIS ONE, I DON'T KNOW...

FOR SOME REASON I THINK WE CAN TRUST HER. ANYWAY...

1

"...WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?"

WAIT HERE... AND IF YOU SEE THEM COMING...

...DON'T TRY TO STOP THEM.

2

IS HE CONSCIOUS?

YES, KARAI-SAN...

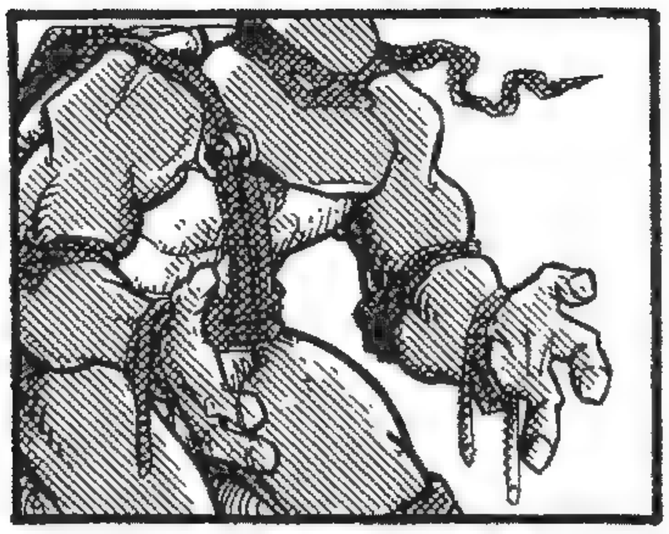
...AND THEREFORE VERY DANGEROUS -- EVEN WHEN BOUND. SHOULDN'T WE JUST... KILL IT?

YOU SHOULD DO NOTHING... BUT OBEY MY ORDERS.

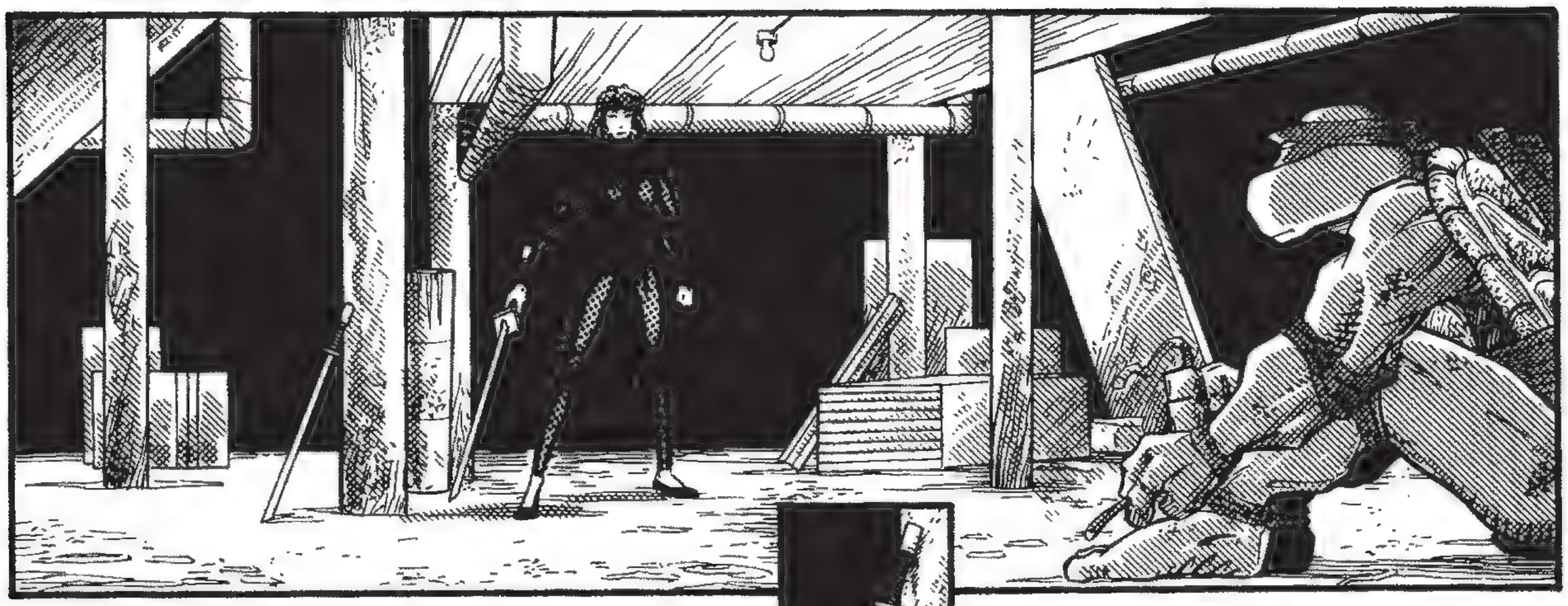
LEAVE US. NOW.

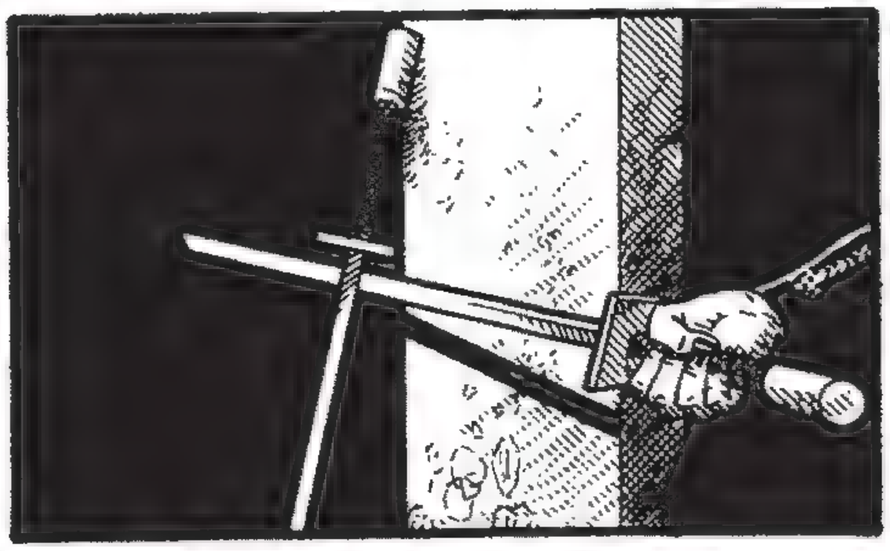
3

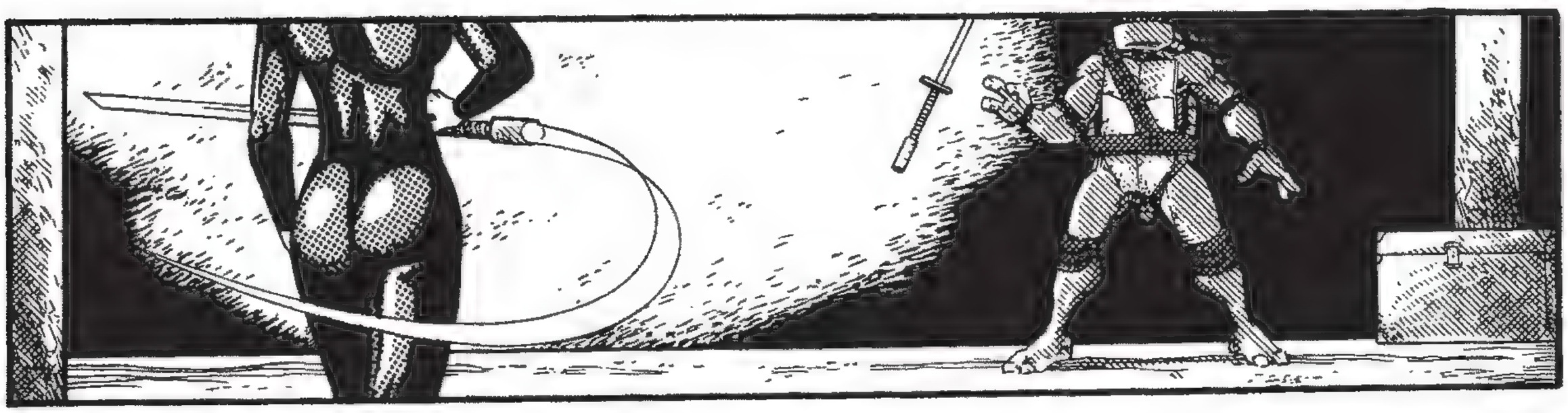
YOUR BLADES ARE WORTHY OF A SWORDMASTER...
...PERFECTLY BALANCED...FOR THE KILLING STROKE!
SHKK
4



WHAT... WHY?







WHO ARE YOU?

I AM KARAI... AND, LIKE YOU...

...I AM NINJA...

...AND I SEE NO HONOR IN THE DEATH OF A HELPLESS OPPONENT.

HONOR? I--

LEO!

YOU OKAY, LEO?

YES... A LITTLE BRUISED ...BUT I'LL LIVE.

AND THIS MUST BE THE LADY WHO KEEPS HER WORD...

6

HMM? SHE SAYS HER NAME IS KARAI. SHE'S--

...I AM HEAD OF THE FOOT IN JAPAN.

JAPAN? AIN'T NEW YORK A LITTLE BIT OUT OF YOUR BALL-PARK, SISTER?

I AM HERE TO RESTORE ORDER TO THE NEW YORK FOOT.

HEY, LIKE WE REALLY GIVE A--!

RAPH! CHILL...

GET TO THE POINT, KARAI...

WHY DID YOU ARRANGE THIS MEETING?

ONE YEAR AGO, WHEN YOU KILLED OROKU SAKI-- THE SHREDDER-- YOU UNWITTINGLY HELPED TO PRECIPITATE A RAPID SERIES OF CHANCES.

FRANKLY, SAKI'S DEATH CAUGHT US UNPREPARED. WHILE WE STRUGGLED TO CREATE A PLAN FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSITION OF POWER, THE VARIOUS FACTIONS OF THE NEW YORK FOOT SPLIT UP AND BEGAN FIGHTING FOR DOMINANCE.

WE SHOULD HAVE ACTED SOONER... BUT IN THE EARLY DAYS, SAKI'S LOYALTY TO US WAS BEYOND REPROACH.

HOWEVER, AS THE NEW YORK FOOT BECAME MORE POWERFUL, THE LESS INFLUENCE WE HAD ON HIM. THE LAST FEW YEARS OF SAKI'S REIGN, HIS TIES TO JAPAN WERE PRACTICALLY NONEXISTENT.

WE RECOGNIZED THE DANGER IN THIS SITUATION, BUT ACTED TOO LATE. NOW I AM HERE... TO TRY TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS.

WHY DID YOU WAIT SO LONG?

SOME OF MY ADVISORS BELIEVED THE FACTIONS WOULD EVENTUALLY KILL EACH OTHER OFF-- THEN WE COULD JUST START OVER.

BUT IT WAS A NAIVE HOPE.

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?

SAKI HAD CAREFULLY TRAINED A CADRE OF ELITE PERSONAL GUARDS. YOU KILLED SOME IN YOUR ASSAULT ON HIS HEADQUARTERS. BUT MOST OF THEM STILL LIVE.

THEY HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT RANDOM, SEEMINGLY MOTIVELESS ATTACKS ON THE OTHER FACTIONS.

THEY ARE A WILD CARD... AND A THREAT TO OUR REORGANIZATION EFFORTS. THEY MUST BE ELIMINATED.

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT US FOR ...TO KILL THE SHREDDER'S ELITE?

"YES. YOU HAVE THE NINJA SKILLS... YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THIS CITY... AND YOU HAVE THE MOTIVATION."

HUH?

WHAT MOTIVATION?

SINCE YOUR FIRST BATTLE WITH THE SHREDDER, YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT DANGER, THE VENGEANCE OF THE FOOT CLAN A THREAT ALWAYS HANGING IN THE BACKGROUND.

AS LEADER OF THE FOOT, I OFFER YOU THIS: DESTROY THE SHREDDER ELITE FOR US, AND THE FOOT WILL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN.

EVER.

YOU HAVE MY WORD.

TAKE YOUR "WORD" AND STUFF IT, LADY! WE AIN'T HELPIN' YOU!

THINK ABOUT IT... BUT DON'T TAKE TOO LONG...

...TIME IS OUR ENEMY.

WRONG, LADY... YOU'RE OUR ENEMY!

10

CASEY...

I WONDER IF WORKING THIS CLOSE TO THE GRILL COULD BE BAD FOR THE BABY.
WASH YOUR HANDS
ONLY IF THE LITTLE NIPPER IS ALLERGIC TO GREASE!
HA HA, MR. JONES. FIND ANYTHING DECENT YET?

WELL... LISTEN TO THIS:
"TWO BEDROOM HOUSE, GARAGE, TWO FULL BATHS, $450 PER MONTH PLUS UTILITIES."
SOUND GOOD?
I DUNNO... I KINDA LIKE THE TRAILER...

HEY, I LIKE IT, TOO... BUT IT'S ALREADY TOO SMALL... AND WHEN THE BABY COMES--

YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT, I GUESS.

FOR THE RENT WE PAY ON THE TRAILER, WE MIGHT AS WELL FIND A PLACE IN TOWN...

I'LL JUST MISS THE PRIVACY AND QUIET OF THE TRAILER--

...AND IT WILL BE MORE EXPENSIVE...

WE'LL MAKE DO, GABE.

I KNOW.

GEE
KEN
CHRISTINA
JIM SINCLAIR
MATT POWELL
F.L. GILMORE
KELLEY McAULIFFE
ALICIA MARTINO
STEVEN BURRIER
ART NICHOLS
WM RAMANELL
MIA HOPPER
CHRIS WILSON
JAMES O'DOHERTY
CH. YOAKUM
DAVE AINSWORTH
DAN HOUCK
"HUMANITARIAN"
1985
13

CHRIS CADE

Dwayne COVEY

I'M SO SORRY, DEAR...YOUR FATHER WAS A FINE MAN.

WILL YOU BE GOING BACK TO CALIFORNIA NOW?

NO, AUNT RUTH... I--I'VE DECIDED TO MOVE BACK TO NEW YORK.

WHAT!?

I'M SORRY, ROBYN...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A FEW WEEKS NOW...

...I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SOONER.

BUT APRIL-- WHY?

OH, ROBYN... I JUST FEEL OUT OF PLACE IN CALIFORNIA.

IT'S TOO-- I DON'T KNOW-- "LAID BACK" OR SOMETHING.

DOES THIS... DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH OUR FIGHT...?

NO, NO...

BUT STAYING WITH YOU, WATCHING HOW YOU DEAL WITH YOUR PROBLEMS... IT'S MADE ME REALIZE I HAVE TO CONFRONT MY OWN--

--AND NOT RUN AWAY FROM THEM.

TONY HARRINGTON R.I.P.

COVEY

EH?

IS... THAT YOU... RAT KING?

YESssss--

LEAVE ME...

GIVE ME... PEACE...

YOU SHALL HAVE PEACE, POOR RAT MAN...

...THE PEACE OF THE GRAVE!!

GOOD LORD...!

16

HA HA HA HA!

NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL, POOR RAT MAN...

...BUT I AM YOUR LORD!

YOUR KING!

YOUR RULER!

N--NO!

YES! ACCEPT MY DOMINION!

I AM LORD OF THE RATS!

NO!

YOU MUST! DO IT NOW-- BOW TO MY RULE!

NEVER!

THEN YOU SHALL--

17

--DIE!!!
NO.
NO--!
10

NOO-!

KRIK

CRUNCH MUNCH

YESSS...

GOOD...

19

HRM--?

YESSS...

BE HAPPY, LITTLE MAN-RAT...

...REJOICE! FOR WITH THIS STEP... THE SHATTERING OF THIS TABOO...

--YOUR PATH IS CLEAR-- YOUR DESTINY... MANIFEST!

HAHAHAH

URK

KRIK

FUMP

21

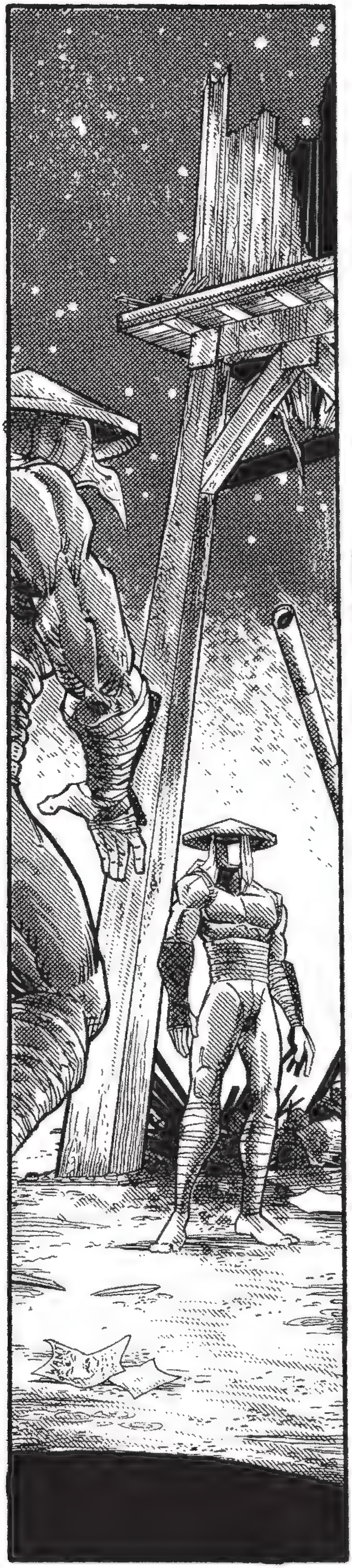
WHA--?!

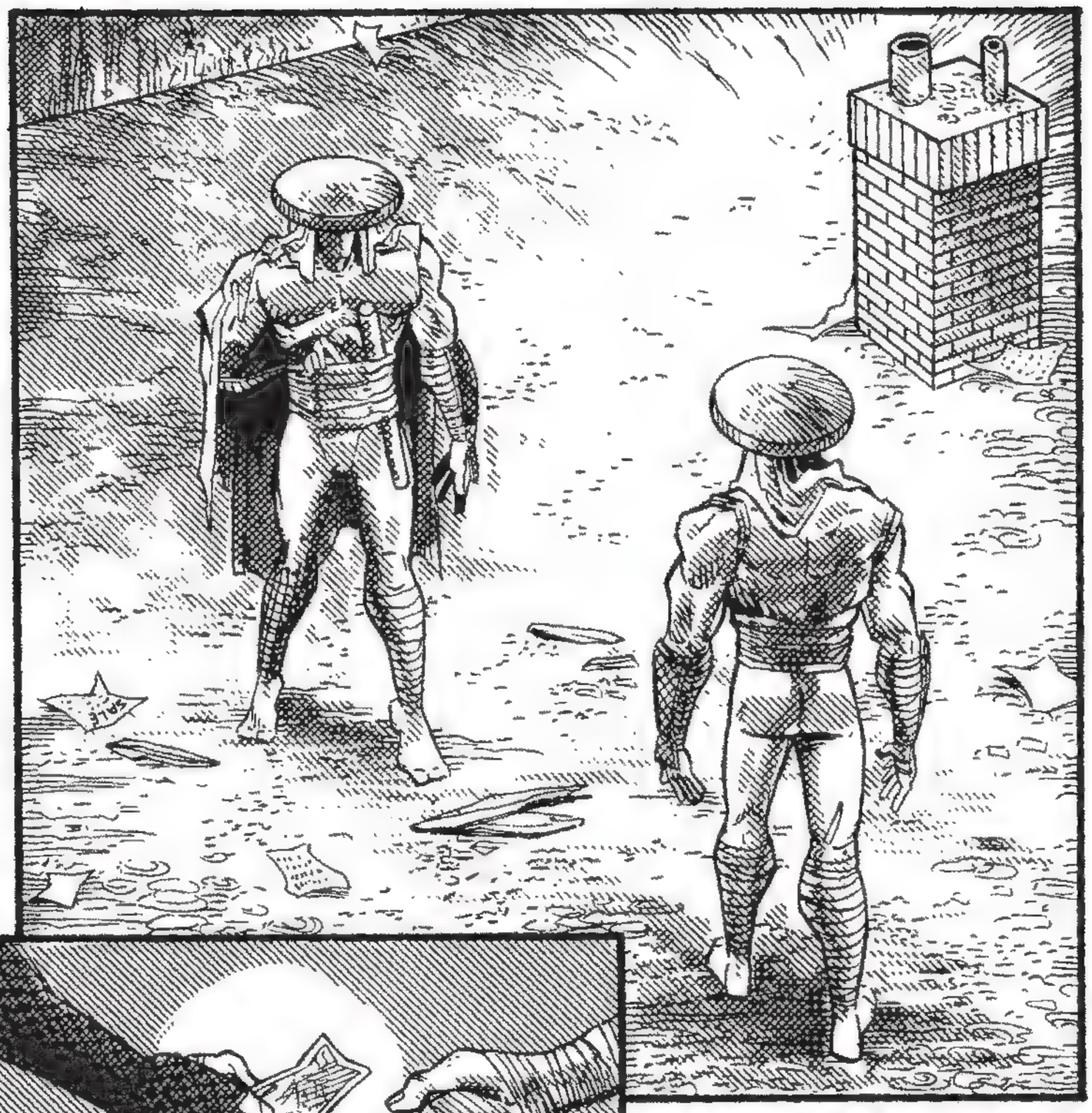
BLAM

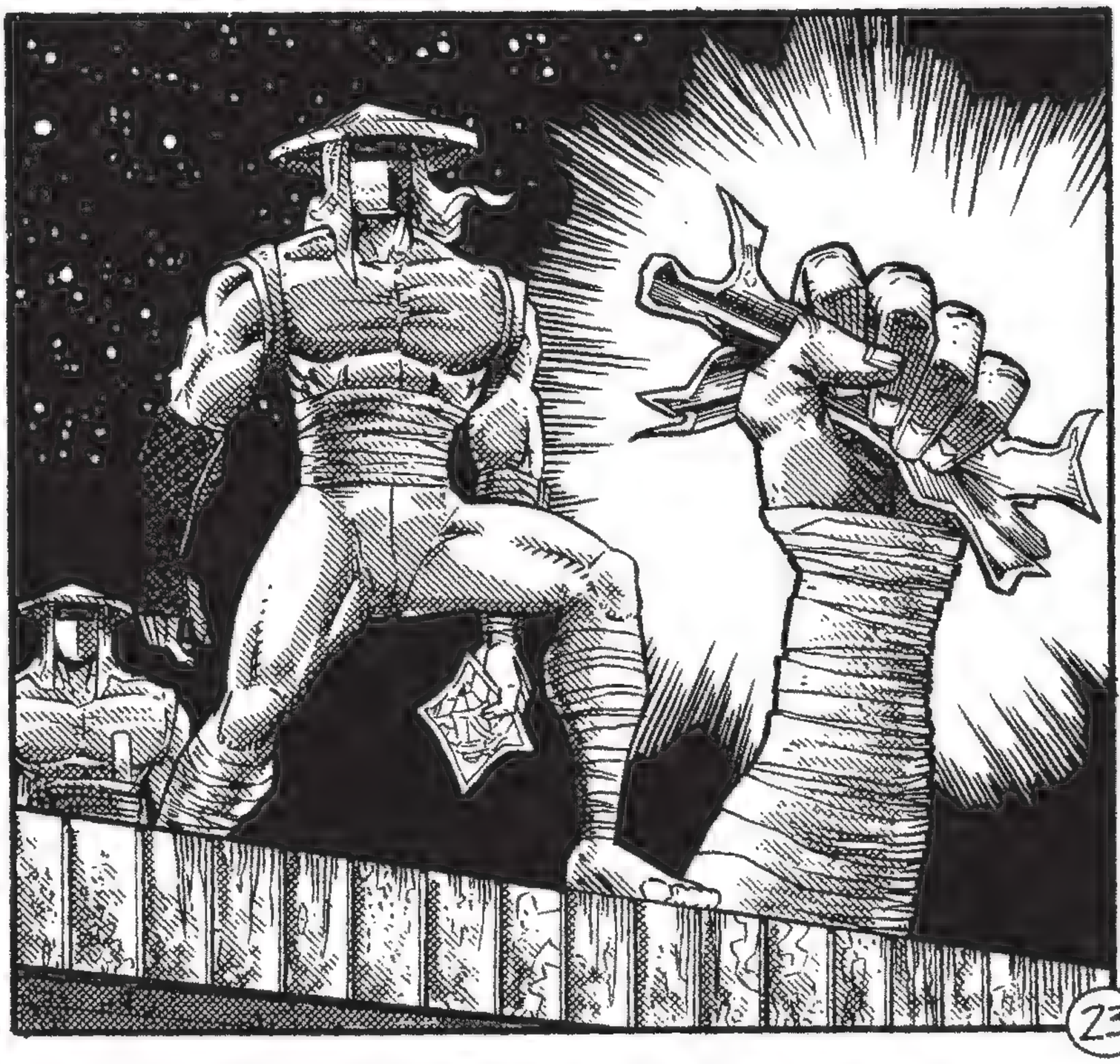
YOU--! I'LL--

AAGH

22







ANNOTATIONS

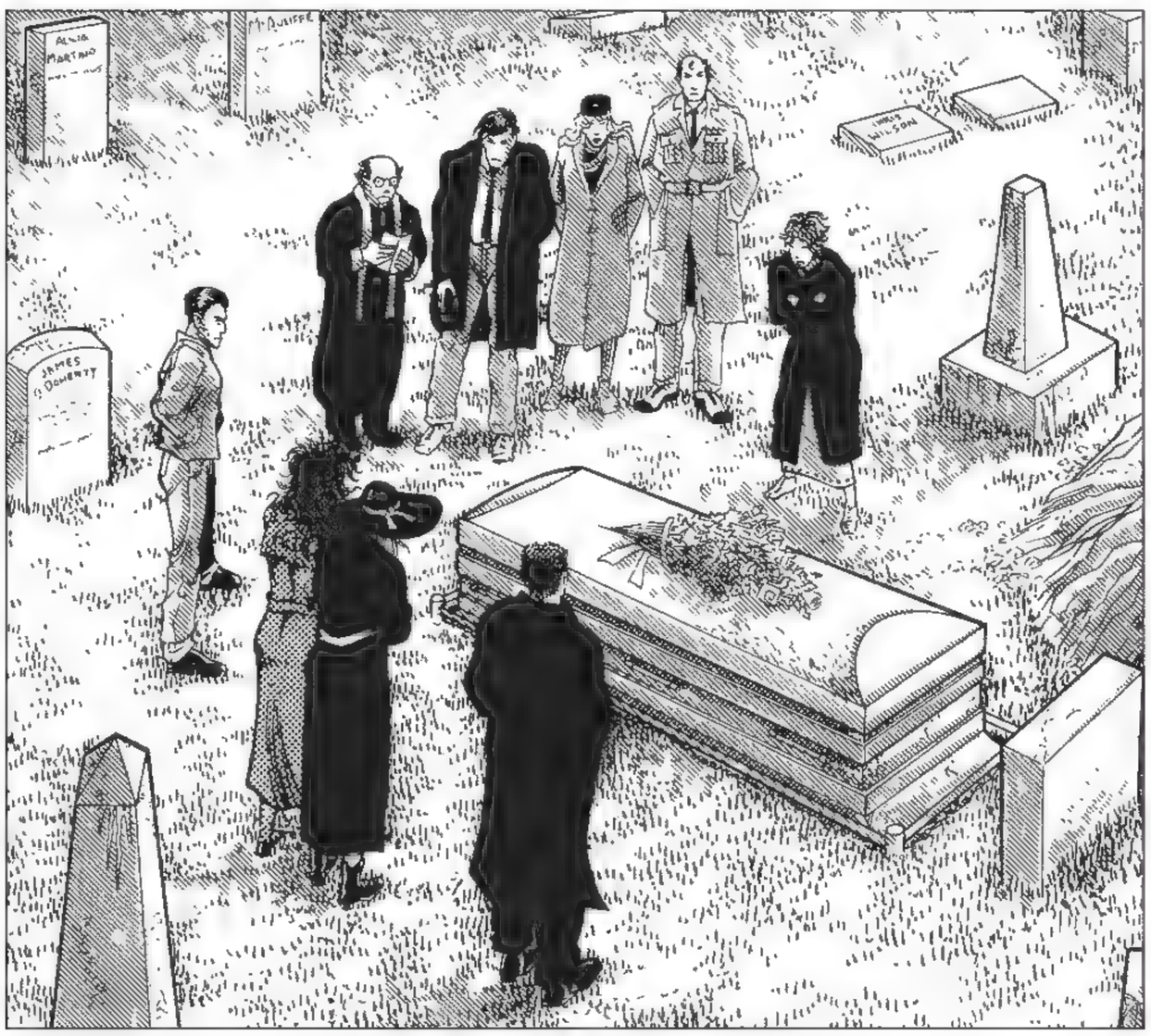
KEVIN EASTMAN

Page 3: Karai with Leo, waiting for the other to show, and just when it looks like she's going to have a showdown with Leo, she cuts an awesome deal: if the TMNTs kill the rogue Shredder Elite—whose final orders ensure the destruction of other Foot factions—she promises to leave them alone… forever!

Page 8: Keith's inking work on Karai here is beautiful. It reminds me of the women Michael Dooney drew in the series. Nice to have a dangerous/sexy female in the mix.

Page 10: They don't buy it, of course, and it is very well played here. Life's options are always bittersweet, and there is never a right answer at times, never just black and white, always shades of grey. Nice.

Page 11-12: Casey's slices of life with Gabe, like looking for a new place to live here, are some of my favorite bits in the series. Really cool to watch him grow as a person and a character, ground we had never covered before. Very sweetly told in story and pacing/layout.



Page 13: I like the use of the funeral as the transition of April deciding to face her problems and return to New York. In the early issues of TMNT we talked about April's dad leaving her the "Second Time Around Shop", and it was a great way to wrap up that plot thread.

Page 18-19: Splinter's battle, intense and awesome, and wonderfully played under the hallucinations concept. Really twisted in a way, yet beautifully drawn. Perfect timing for him to finally save his own life, by eating his own kind…

Page 20: The Rat King is VERY cool, always thought a lot more could be done with him…

Page 22: The Elite, now tracking the TMNTs, is the perfect cliffhanger ending for the issue—who is hunting who?

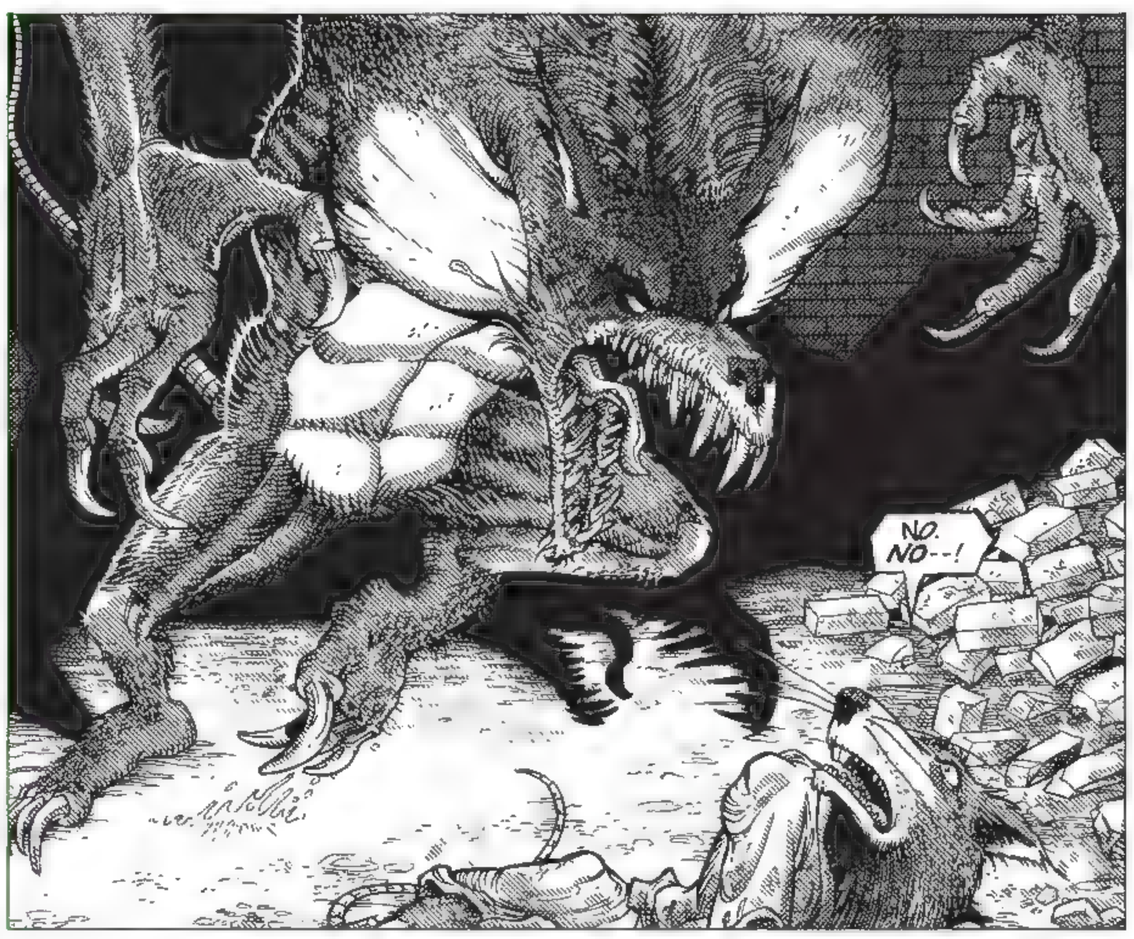
Page 24: Completely GENIUS final splash page by Jim and Keith. They were REALLY hitting their stride here. Well done.

PETER LAIRD

Some important stuff happens in this issue. The first big thing comes on page 10, when Karai makes her startling offer to the Turtles, an offer which could bring them peace… but at a price.

SINCE YOUR FIRST BATTLE WITH THE SHREDDER, YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT DANGER, THE VENGEANCE OF THE FOOT CLAN A THREAT ALWAYS HANGING IN THE BACKGROUND.
AS LEADER OF THE FOOT, I OFFER YOU THIS: DESTROY THE SHREDDER ELITE FOR US, AND THE FOOT WILL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN.
EVER.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.

Pages 16–20: This five-page scene showcases some of Jim's most brilliant work. The misshapen monstrous rat version of the Rat King is extremely scary, especially as he lunges at Splinter on page 18.



$2.25 USA/$2.75 CANADA ISSUE 58 APRIL 1993

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

PART NINE OF THIRTEEN

CITY AT WAR

#58

OH, CASEY... WHEN I WENT INTO LABOR LAST NIGHT, I WAS SO THRILLED ...SOON WE'LL HAVE A CHILD TO LOVE...

YEAH... WE'LL BE A REAL FAMILY, GABE...

1

YOU, ME, AND--

OH!

...AND BABY MAKES THREE!

HEY, DADDY, WANNA PLAY?

WUKK

BAPF

UNH...
NO--!
CASEY! HELP MEEE!
TOO LATE FOR THAT MOMMY...
"TOO LATE..."
ROAR!!
3

-;SOB;-
SNIF
CABE? WHAT IS IT?
CABE...?
TOO LATE...
TOO LATE...
!
APRIL--!
WHUH--
--HENH?
4

WEIRD DREAM...

MR. JONES?

YEAH?

I'M DR. BRENNER. WOULD YOU COME WITH ME, PLEASE?

DOC, CAN YOU FILL ME IN? GUESS I KINDA FELL ASLEEP...

I'M NOT SURPRISED...YOU'D BEEN UP--WHAT? --TWENTY HOURS STRAIGHT.

HERE'S MY OFFICE.

WHEN YOUR WIFE WENT INTO LABOR LAST NIGHT, SHE ALSO STARTED HEMORRHAGING. IT WASN'T BAD AT FIRST...BUT AFTER EIGHT HOURS OF LABOR, SHE WAS HAVING EXTENSIVE INTERNAL BLEEDING.

SO WE DID A C-SECTION. THE BABY'S FINE. A LITTLE GIRL.

WHAT ABOUT GABRIELLE?

SIGH...

I'M SORRY, MR. JONES. WE DID ALL WE COULD. THE LOSS OF BLOOD... THE STRESS OF CHILDBIRTH...

IT WAS JUST TOO MUCH FOR HER...

"IT'S SMALL COMFORT, I KNOW, BUT... I WAS WITH HER IN THOSE FINAL MOMENTS... AND SHE LOOKED QUITE AT PEACE."

"THE BABY... WE WANT TO KEEP HER IN THE MATERNITY WARD FOR A FEW EXTRA DAYS... JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE."

"BUT YOU CAN GO SEE HER NOW, IF YOU WISH."

UM... I HAVE TO GO NOW, MR. JONES... OTHER PATIENTS TO SEE.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE MY OFFICE, IF YOU NEED MORE PRIVATE TIME.

WERE THERE ANY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS...?

NO...

IT'S NEVER EASY, LOSING A LOVED ONE, MR. JONES. HOWEVER...

...YOU HAVE A LITTLE DAUGHTER NOW...

...AND SHE NEEDS YOU.

6

7

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, LEO?

...WE SHOULD ALLY OURSELVES WITH THE DAMNED FOOT CLAN?

I'M SIMPLY ASKING YOU TO CONSIDER IT AS AN OPTION.

BUT... WE'VE BEEN AT WAR WITH THEM FOR YEARS! THEY'RE OUR FREAKIN' BLOOD ENEMIES!

ARE THEY? IF SO, WHY?

THINK ABOUT IT... THINK BACK. WE'RE IN THIS BECAUSE... BECAUSE...

...BECAUSE OF MASTER SPLINTER.

EXACTLY, MIKE.

THIS IS *HIS* WAR.

SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN, MASTER SPLINTER TAUGHT US, TRAINED US FOR ONE THING: TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF *HIS* MASTER, HAMATO YOSHI.

SINCE THAT DAY-- WHEN WE FIRST KILLED THE SHREDDER THE THREAT OF THE FOOT HAS CIRCUMSCRIBED OUR LIVES...AND THROUGH US, CASEY'S AND APRIL'S LIVES, TOO.

WHO CAN BLAME THEM FOR WANTING TO LEAVE?

I KNOW I CAN'T.

BUT NOW...

...NOW WE HAVE, WITH KARAI'S PROPOSAL, AN OPPORTUNITY...

A CHANCE TO BREAK THIS CHAIN OF VENGEANCE AND DEATH... AND RECLAIM OUR LIVES.

LEO... WHAT WOULD SPLINTER SAY?

I'M UNSURE... I WOULD GLADLY DIE FOR HIM... BUT...

...I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GIVE HIM MY LIFE.

9

LEO... WE-- WE MUST HONOR MASTER SPLINTER. HE IS OUR SENSEI!

I KNOW, DON... BELIEVE ME, I KNOW...

AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE NAIVE, LEO? AS IF HELPING THE FOOT THIS ONE TIME IS GONNA CHANGE THINGS--!

THEY'LL STILL BE THERE... DOIN' WHAT THEY'VE ALWAYS DONE...

RAPH'S RIGHT. THESE YEARS... I DON'T THINK WE'VE FOUGHT THE FOOT JUST FOR THE SAKE OF MASTER SPLINTER. WE FIGHT THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE EVIL!

IS IT REALLY THAT SIMPLE, DON?

IS LIFE JUST BLACK AND WHITE?

10

LOOK, GUYS -- WE'RE NOT SOCIETY'S SAVIORS. I MEAN, WE'VE NEVER REALLY GONE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE-- THE FOOT HAS ALWAYS BROUGHT THE FIGHT TO US.

I, FOR ONE, WOULD LOVE NOT HAVING TO CONSTANTLY LOOK OVER MY SHOULDER...

YOU KNOW, THIS MAY ALL BE MOOT, IN ONE RESPECT...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THAT SHREDDER ELITE--

--THE ONE RAPH FOUGHT--SAID HE WAS HONOR-BOUND TO SLAY YOU, LEO. THAT MEANS THE REST OF THEM WILL TRY TO FIND YOU.

HMM...

PERHAPS KARAI CAN HELP US LURE THEM OUT OF HIDING...

LET'S PAY HER A VISIT.

GREAT! BUT KEEP THIS IN MIND, BUDS-- IF SHE *CAN* HELP US FIND THOSE GUYS... WHAT DO WE DO WITH 'EM?... AND WHY?

FEELING PERKY TODAY, I SEE...

EH--?! YOU WOULD MAKE A GOOD NINJA, RAT KING... YOU COME AND GO SO SILENTLY. YES... MY STRENGTH IS RETURNING.

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN HERE?

I'M NOT CERTAIN. DURING MY DELIRIUM, I LOST TRACK. MM... SEVERAL WEEKS?

TWO MONTHS.

THAT LONG... HMM...

IT HAS BEEN... EDUCATIONAL.

YOU CAME. YOU SOUGHT ENLIGHTENMENT. I WAS MERELY YOUR GUIDE...

...AND MY TORMENTOR.

YOUR BELIEFS, DEEPLY HELD, SOMETIMES BLIND YOU. THE WALLS ERECTED IN OUR MINDS BLOCK OUT THE LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE.

THAT LESSON IS CLEAR TO ME NOW... I CAN SEE IT IS WHY I WAS LED TO THIS PLACE.

YES... I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR YOUR ARRIVAL.

12

YOU KNEW ...I WOULD COME...?

OF COURSE... THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

HMM... SO... THE MASTER BECOMES THE STUDENT.

...AND MAY YOU EVER BE SO.

--FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SARAJEVO WITH REPEATED SHELLINGS OF THE CITY BY ARTILLERY BATTERIES IN THE HILLS...

...INTERRUPTING VITAL POWER AND WATER LINES.

IN OTHER NEWS...

13

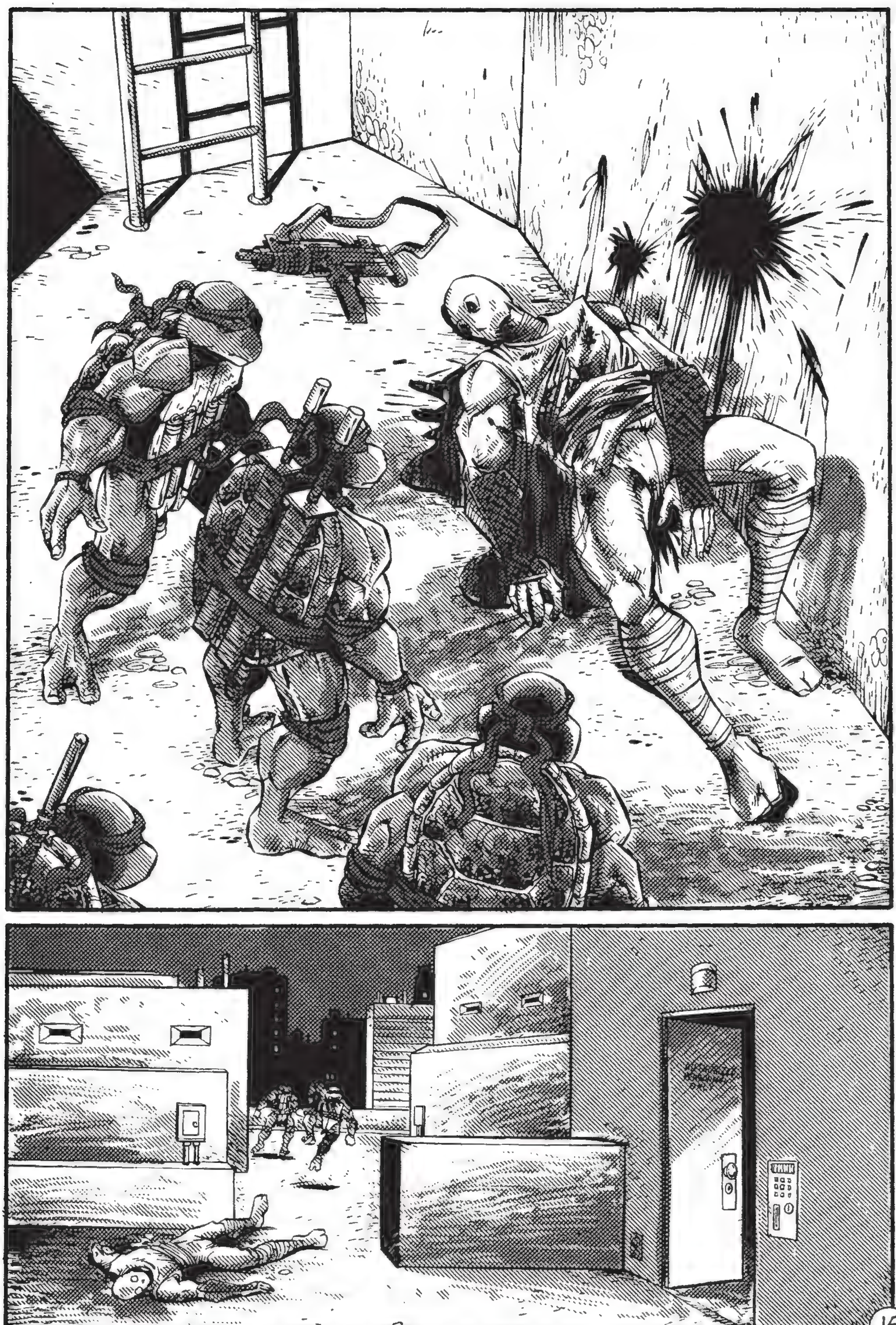
CHIKK

HMM... COULD THIS BE A TRAP?

UH OH...

TRIP

14



KARAI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

YOUR AIDE... IS SHE...?

PERSONNEL ONLY

JEEZ...

NO...NOT JUST MY AIDE...

16

...SHE WAS... MY ONLY DAUGHTER! A CHILD...!

HE'S DEAD... SHOT.

LEO! OVER HERE!

...SWEAR YOU WILL KILL THEM ALL!!!

SWEAR TO ME YOU WILL KILL THEM...

I SWEAR IT.

WELCOME, LADIES... PLEASE COME IN. I'M ATTORNEY FENNET.

HI... I'M ROBYN ...THIS IS APRIL.

HELLO...

IT'S NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU. PLEASE... HAVE A SEAT, AND WE'LL BEGIN.

YOUR FATHER'S WILL ISN'T VERY LONG...

SHORTLY...

...TO BE SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN MY TWO DAUGHTERS. ALL MONIES REMAINING FROM THE INSURANCE SETTLEMENT ON MY PROPERTY, THE SECOND TIME AROUND STORE AND BUILDING. IN ADDITION, ANY MONIES FROM MY LIFE INSURANCE POLICY AFTER ESTATE TAXES...

18

HOW MUCH MONEY IS THERE?

WELL, AFTER EXPENSES AND TAXES...

...YOU SHOULD EACH RECEIVE AROUND TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

YOUR FATHER TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN KNOWING THAT HE COULD LEAVE YOU THIS LEGACY...

WOW...

WELL, I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE... I'M SURE YOU HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.

19

IT'S SURE A LOT OF MONEY...

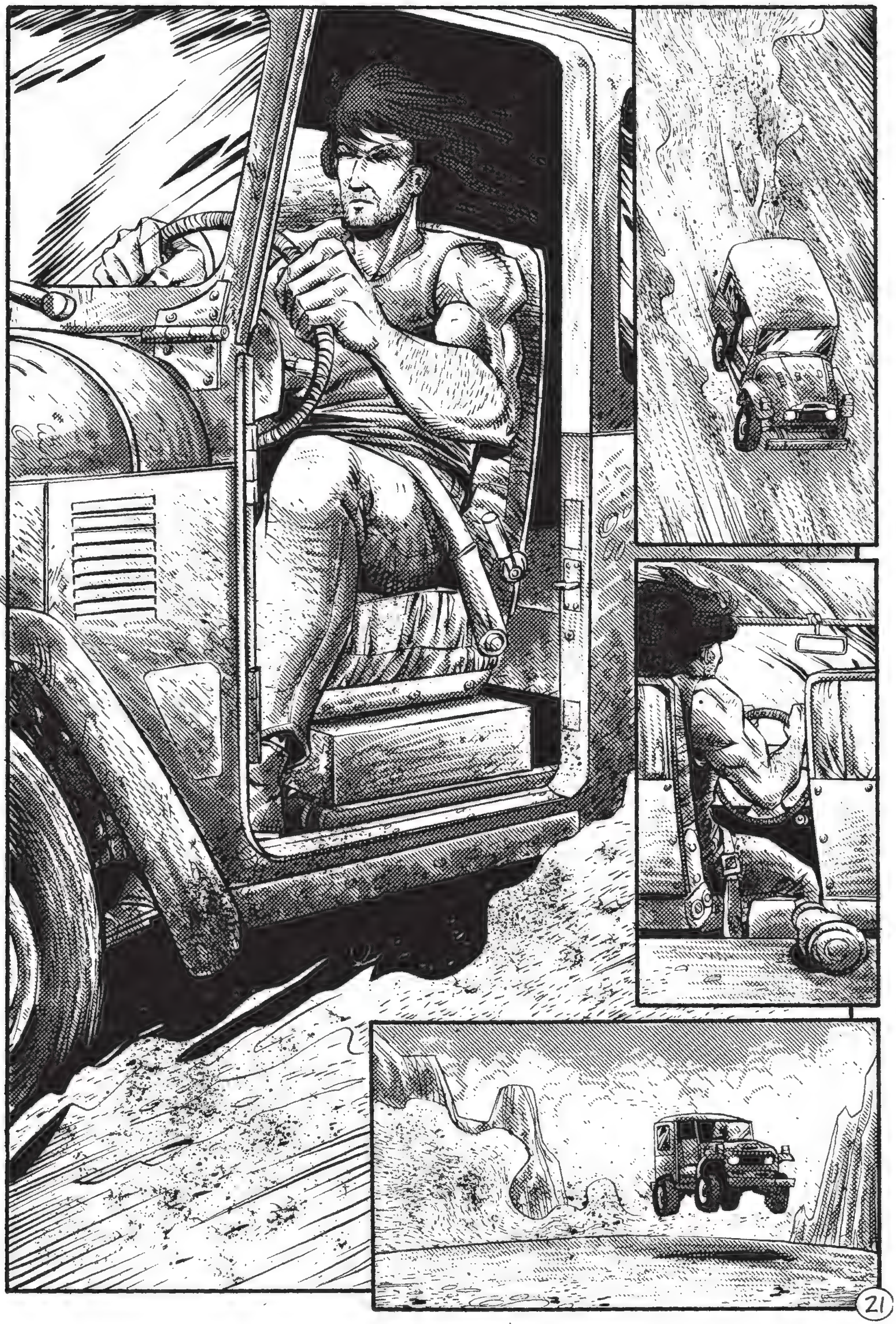
YES...

Y'KNOW...IF YOU CAME BACK OUT TO L.A., WE COULD MAYBE START A NICE BUSINESS TOGETHER...

NO, ROBYN... I'VE MADE MY MIND UP... BUT...

...THANKS FOR ASKING.

20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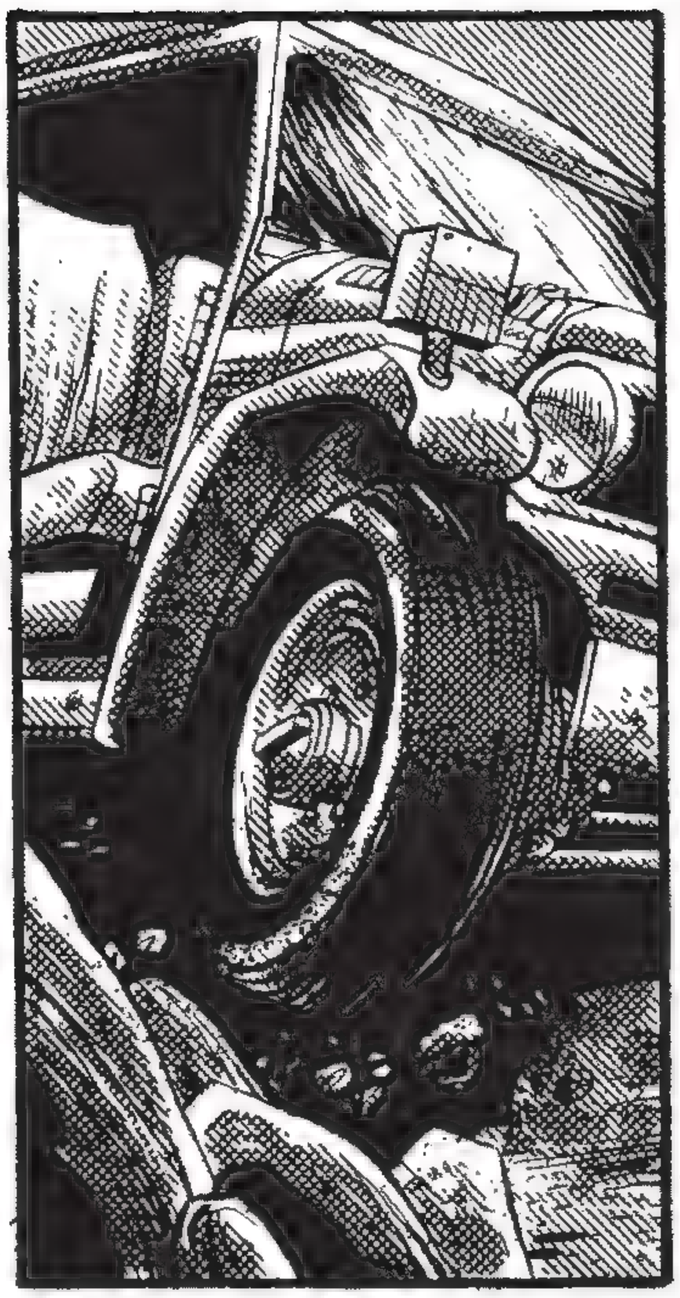
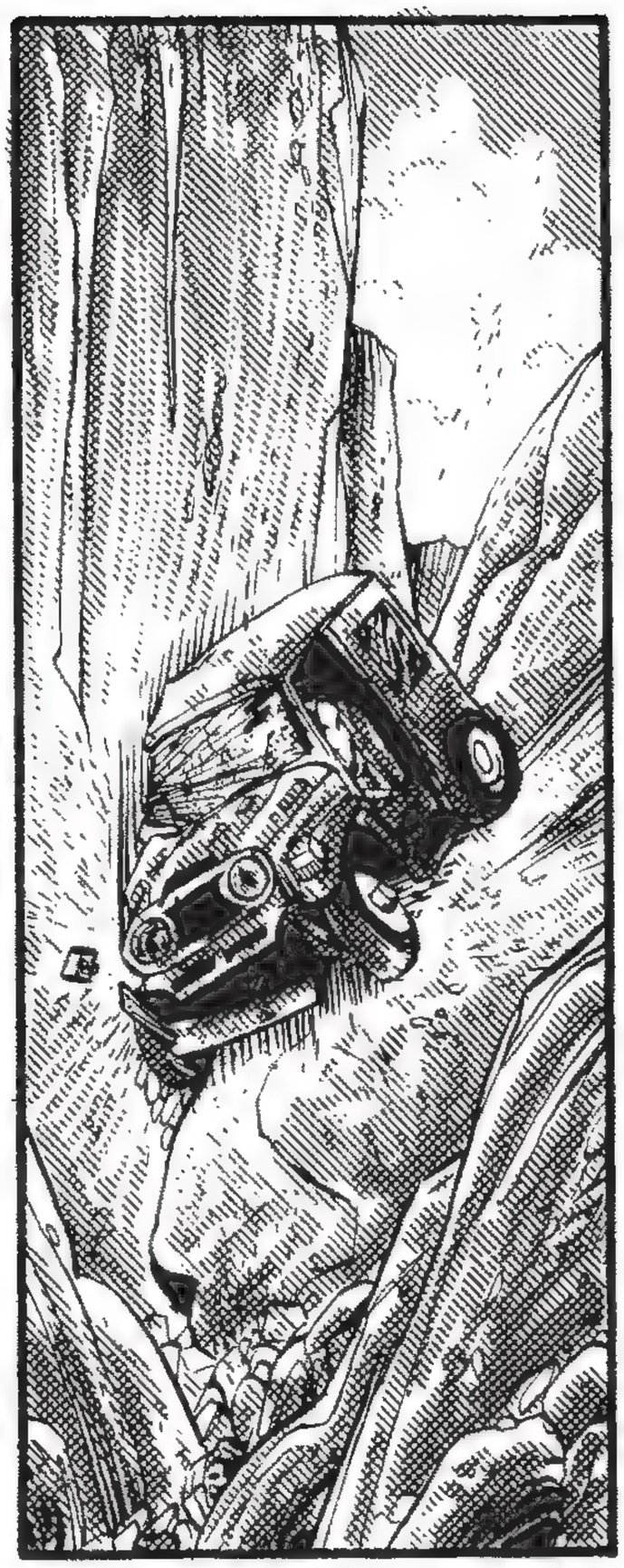
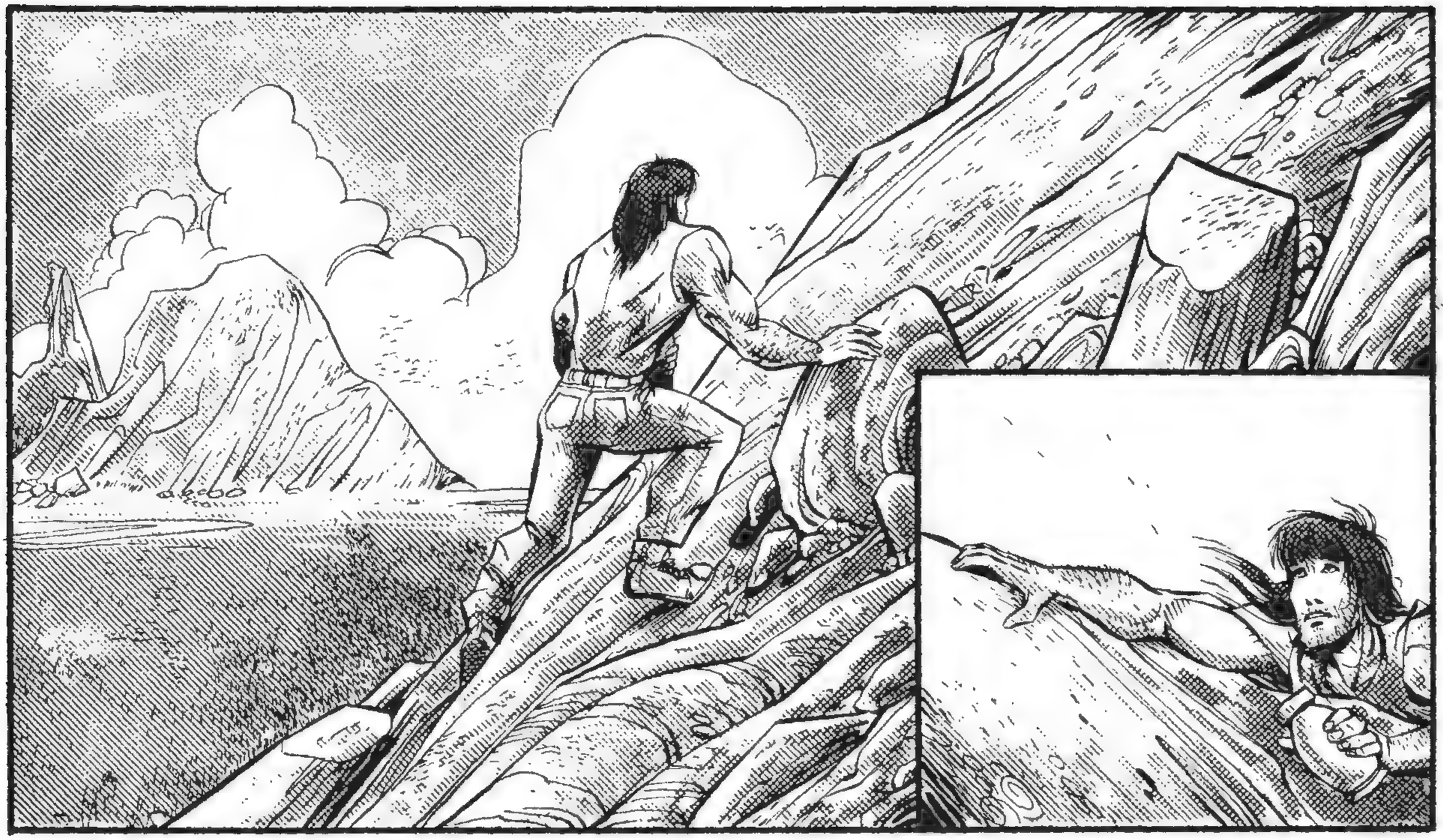
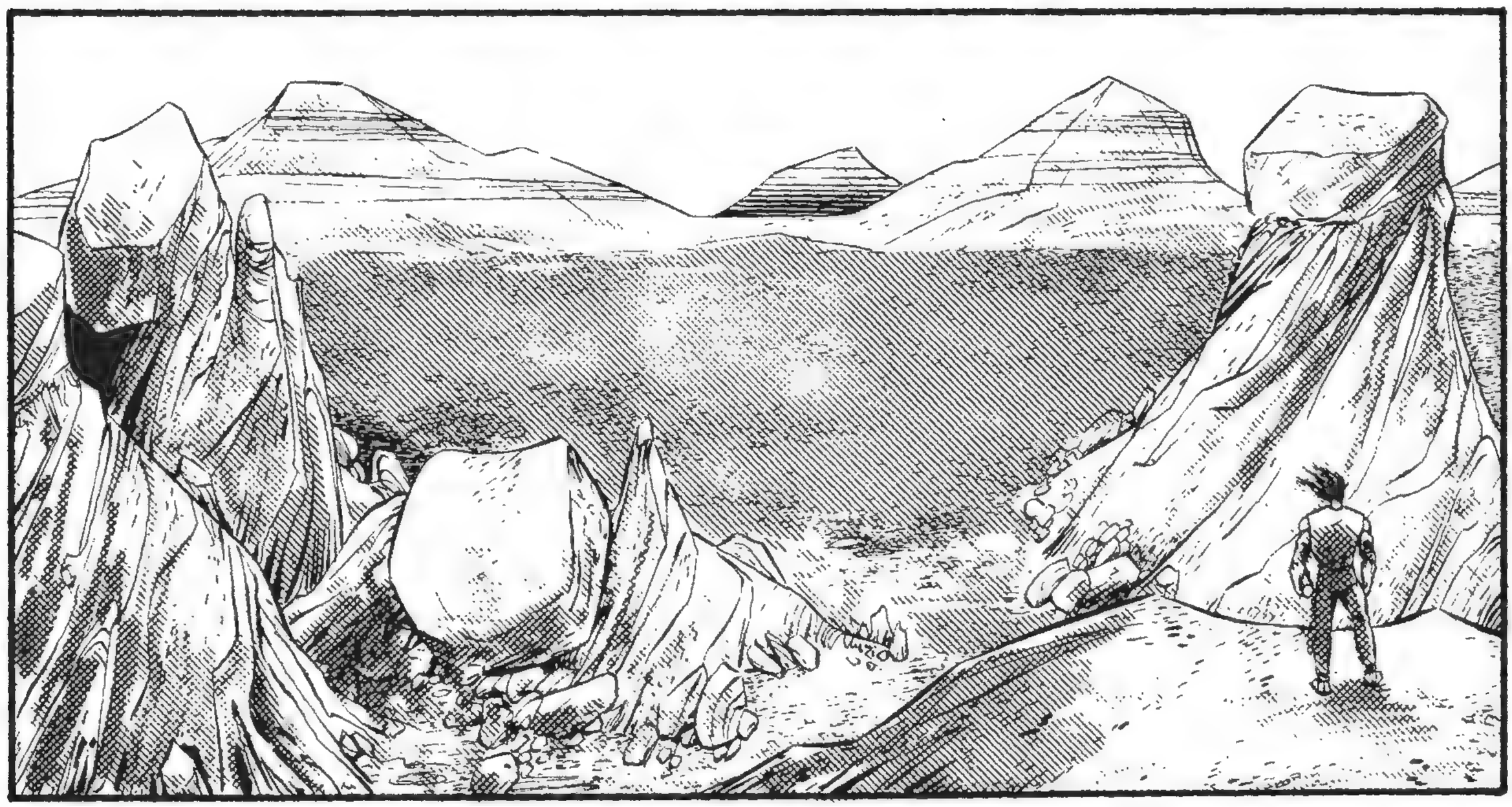
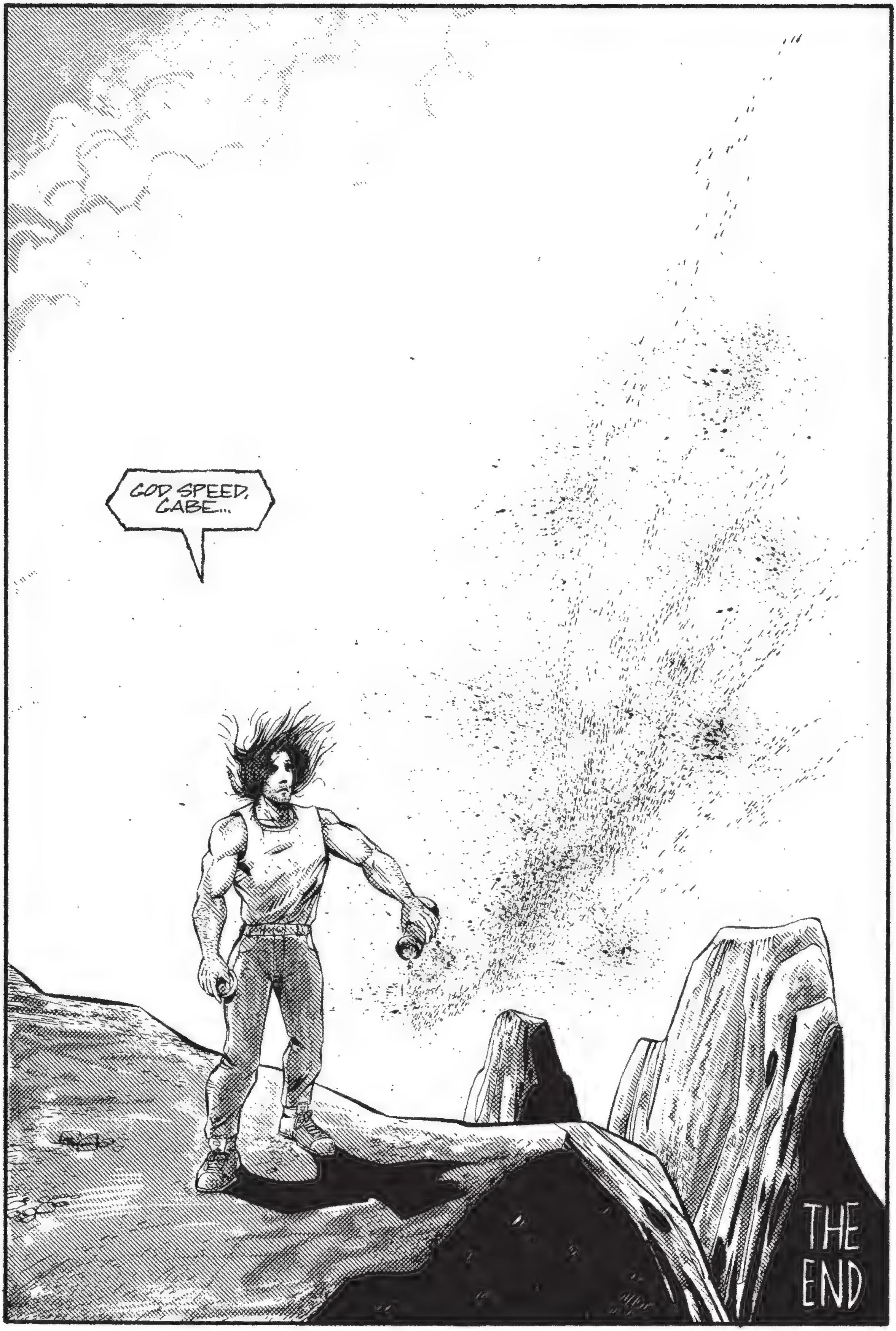









GOD SPEED, CABE...
THE END

ANNOTATIONS

KEVIN EASTMAN

Page 1: I love this opening splash page. Like pretty much all of them in the series, this one is also beautifully drawn, and although I love Keith Aiken's inks, Jason Temujin Minor's are just as strong, and I love his take/individual style that clearly shines through in this powerful issue.

Page 2: Casey's nightmare, where Gabe is taken away from him, is awesome… really awesome, and how he wakes up calling out April's name is the PERFECT intro set-up for many things to come, but still keeps us right in the moment here in his life. This is beautifully and powerfully told and structured, as Casey is then told that Gabe died in childbirth.

Page 5: Gut-wrenching times ten, and VERY well done by Peter and Jim.

Page 8-11: I love the struggle the TMNTs are having here, really grown-up decision-making stuff, without Splinter around to guide them, trying to decide whether or not to trust Karai. It's intense and thoughtfully told.

She has offered to leave them alone forever if they help take out the Shredder Elite, but if they DO decide to take out the Elite, they are no better than the assassins they have cut the deal with. Yet if reflects the way they grew up, being trained by Splinter to take out his arch-enemy The Shredder, and this is really a continuation of that stream of thought. HEAVY.

Page 12-13: Splinter's ongoing verbal/mental growth relationship with The Rat King has been such an interestingly conceived and realized plot arc in the series. Those moments here, like everything spun in this awesome transitional issue, are perfect. And we also get to show that two months have passed thus far in the series...

Something I always forget to mention, and sometimes it happens so fast, with little or no dialogue, is that every issue of the series has a flashback to Nate as he slowly recovers while watching his own Sarajevo homeland implode. Bittersweet, and also well placed, it gives us a great insight to the passage of time, and the healing/growth process.

Page 16: As the TMNTs get closer to accepting their own "bittersweet" deal, they go see Karai, whose daughter has just been killed in an Elite attack, along with a ton of Foot soldiers. We clearly get to see the result of the Shredder Elite's mission, the final command by their dead boss, and it puts the Turtles over the top. This needs to be stopped—right or wrong…

Page 19: The reading of the will with April and Robyn closes the chapter for them, and April confirms her return to New York. With the money from their father's estate, it gives them the chance to REALLY start over and take command of their life. I love that a Triceratops painting was thrown into the background at the lawyer's office, a complete and true Peter Laird trademark! Awesome!

Page 22: Casey's emotion-filled drive, and his crash into the desert mountains, to release Gabe's ashes, is beautifully related… "God speed, Gabe…"

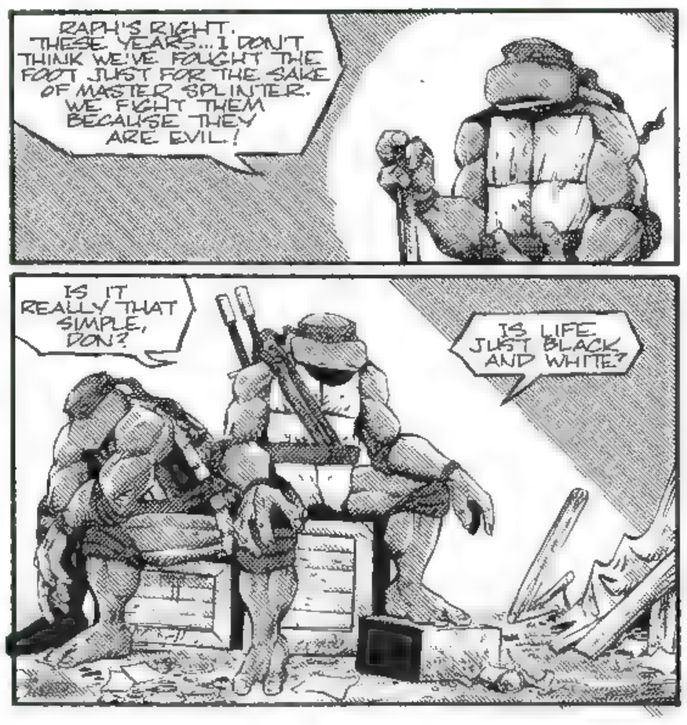
All the issues are strong, but this one is exceptional, REALLY exceptional.

PETER LAIRD

A new inker—Jason Temujin Minor—took over the inking duties for this issue, and did a good job, I think.

Pages 1–7: More of the "soap opera" sub-plot—Casey's unsettling dream segues into the tragic reality of Gabrielle's death and the dawning realization that he is now a single father.

Pages 8–11: "Talking heads" scenes are sometimes necessary in comics, to get across needed exposition… and often it's difficult to make them work, visually. Jim pulls it off very well in these four pages, though he is helped by dialogue, which is among the best we'd done, in my opinion. This scene of the Turtles' tense discussion of their very reason for being and their possible future is an extremely important one for this issue and all those to come.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IS IT REALLY THAT SIMPLE, DON?
IS LIFE JUST BLACK AND WHITE?

Page 19: Ya gotta love a lawyer with a framed picture of a Triceratops (my favorite dinosaur) on the wall of his office.

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TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

CITY AT WAR

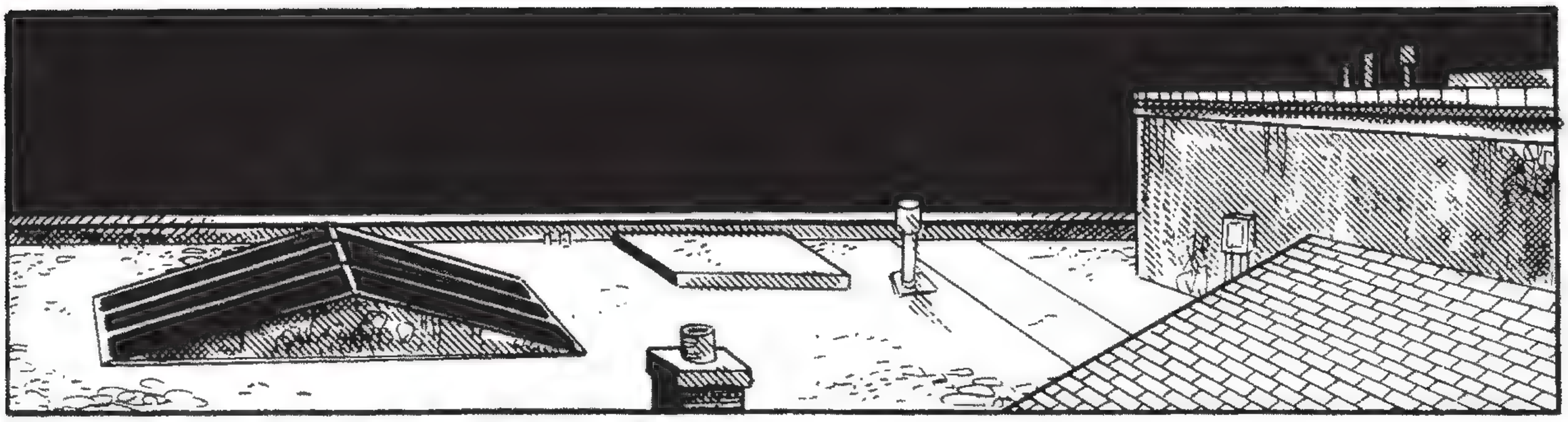
KWNCH KWNCH

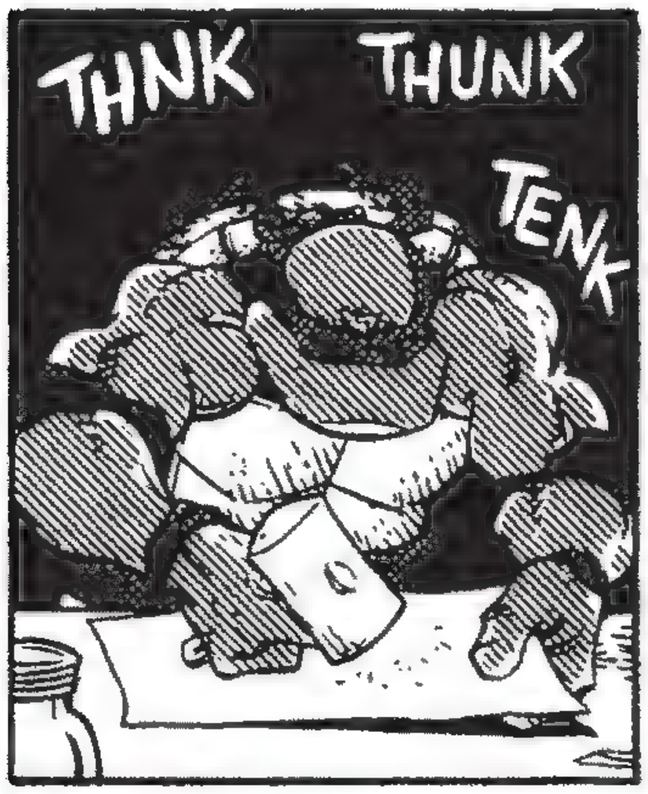
Snap-On

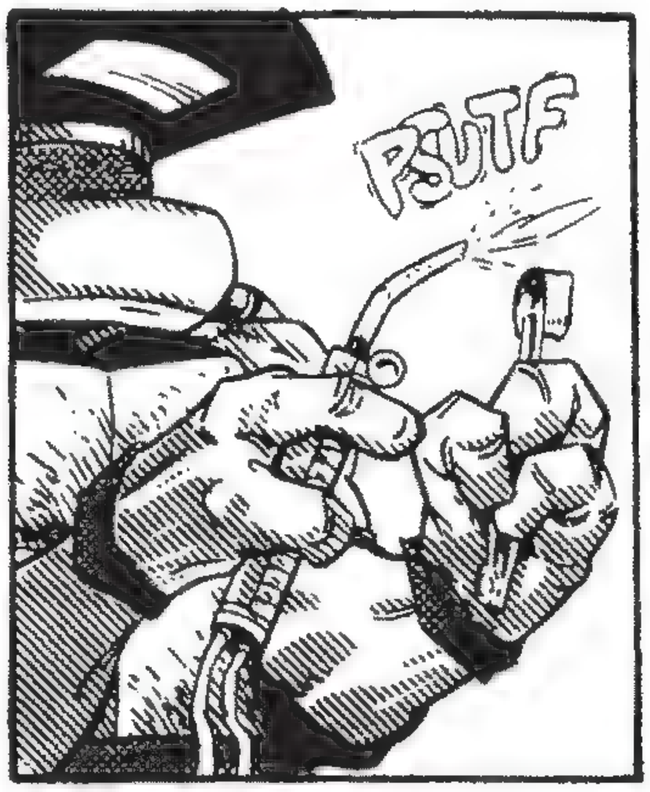
MAY 1993

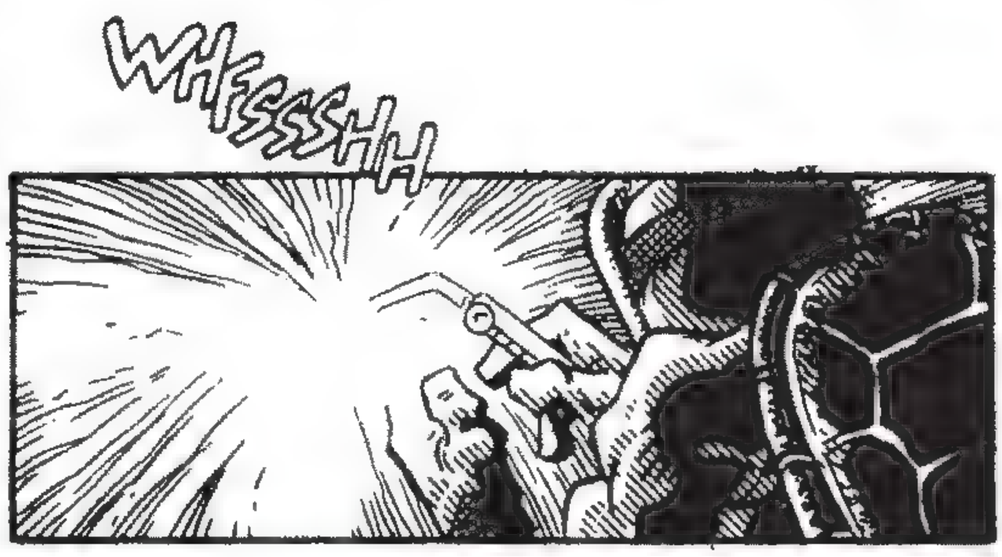
S M T W Th F S

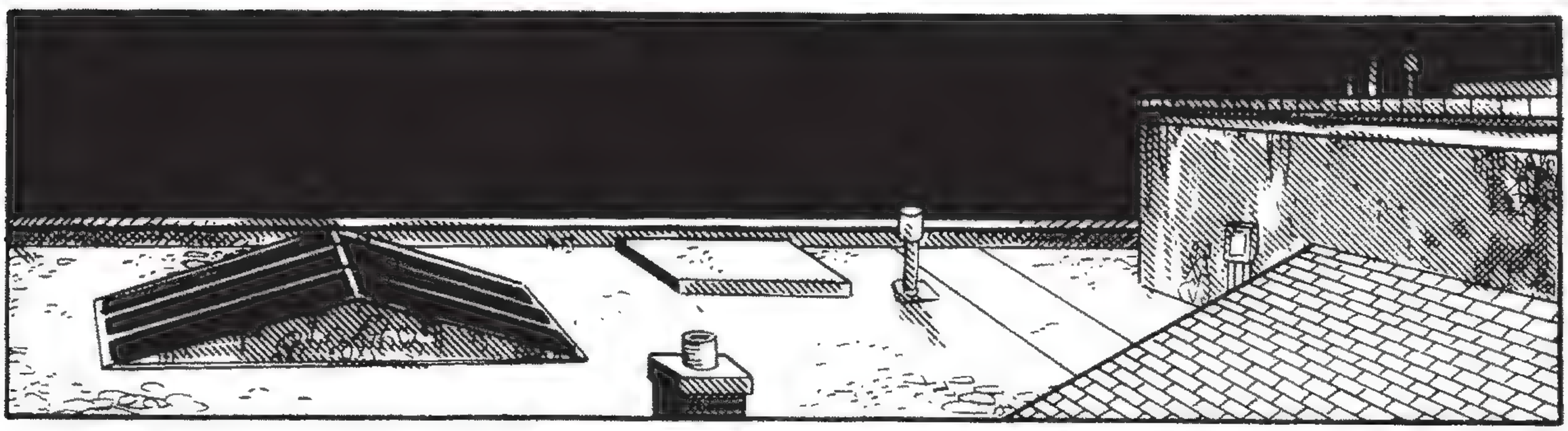
TONK TONK TENK

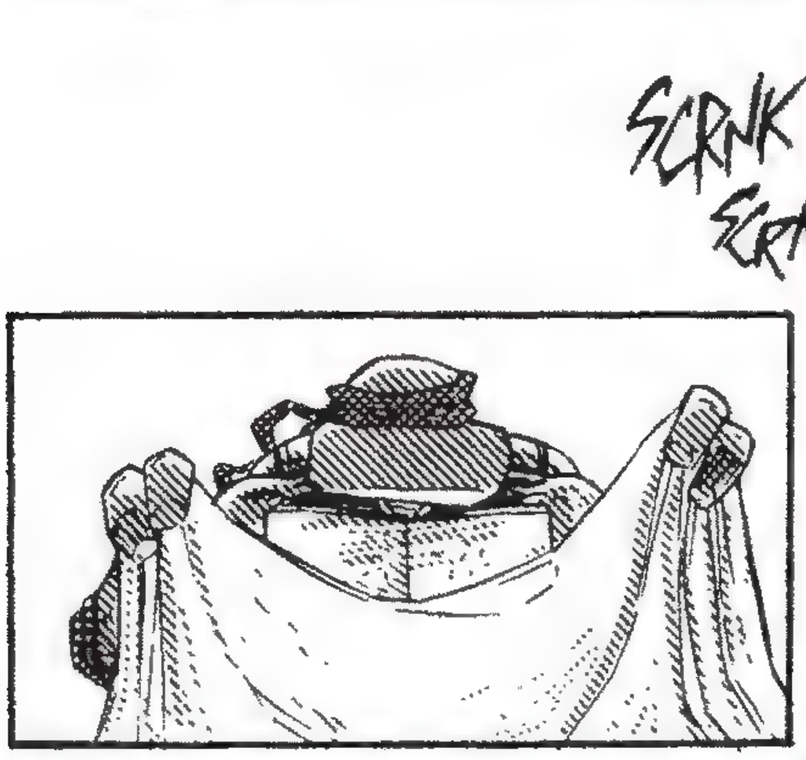


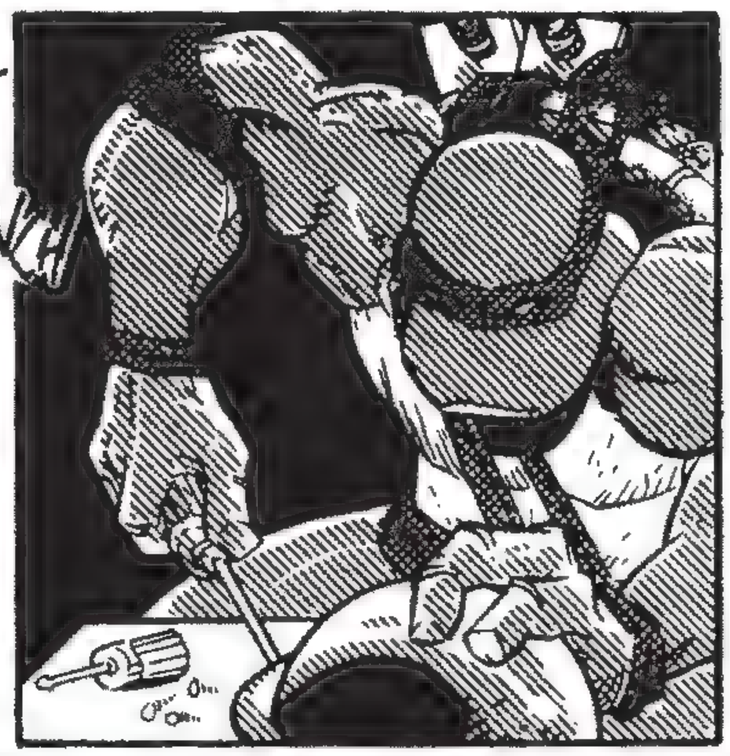


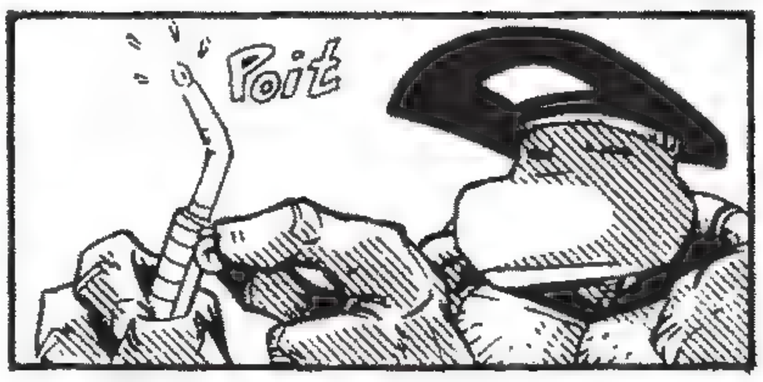


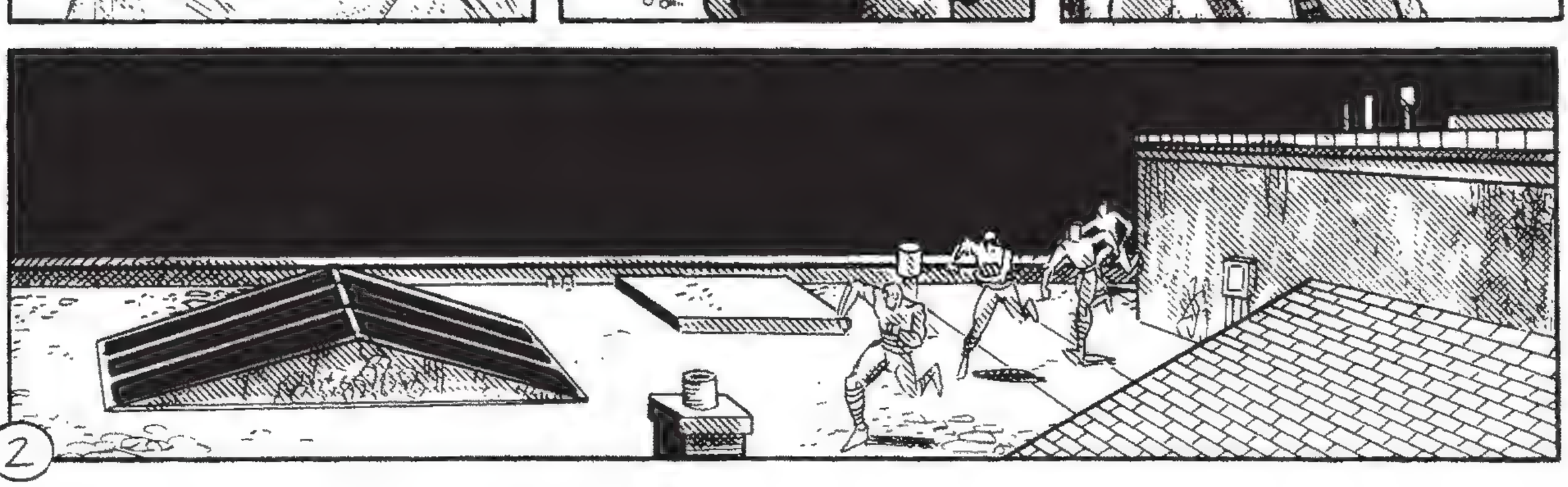












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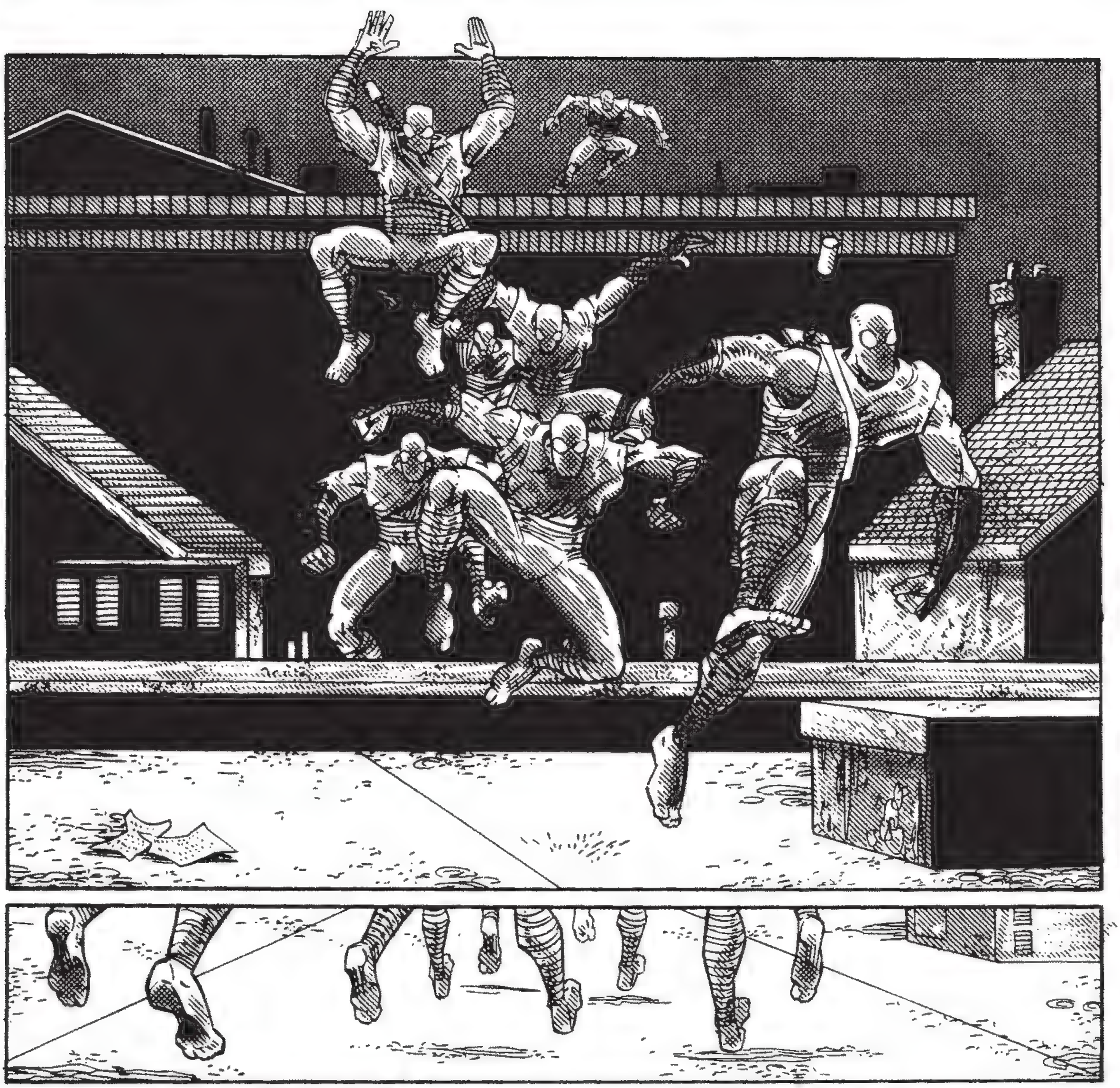
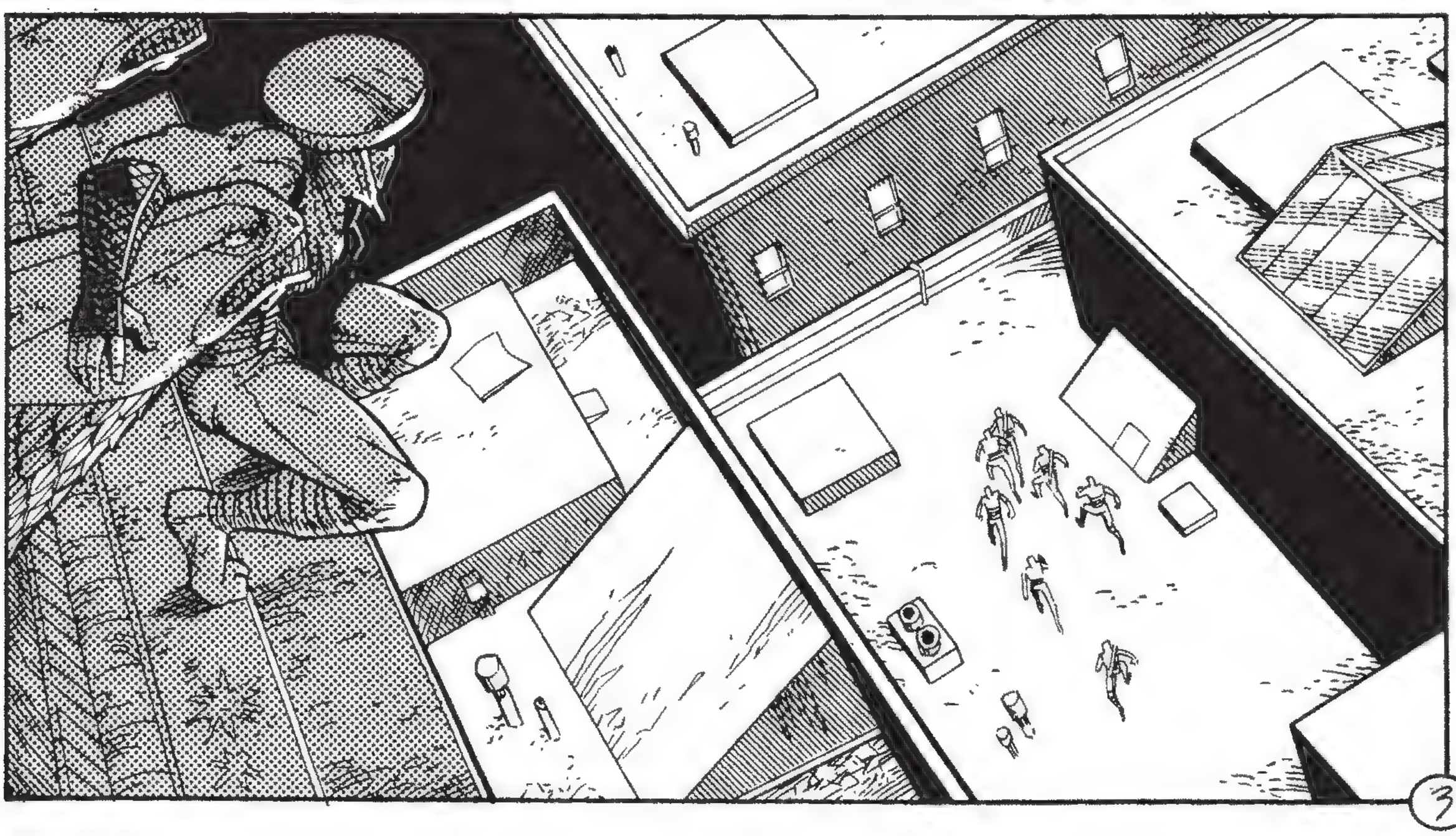
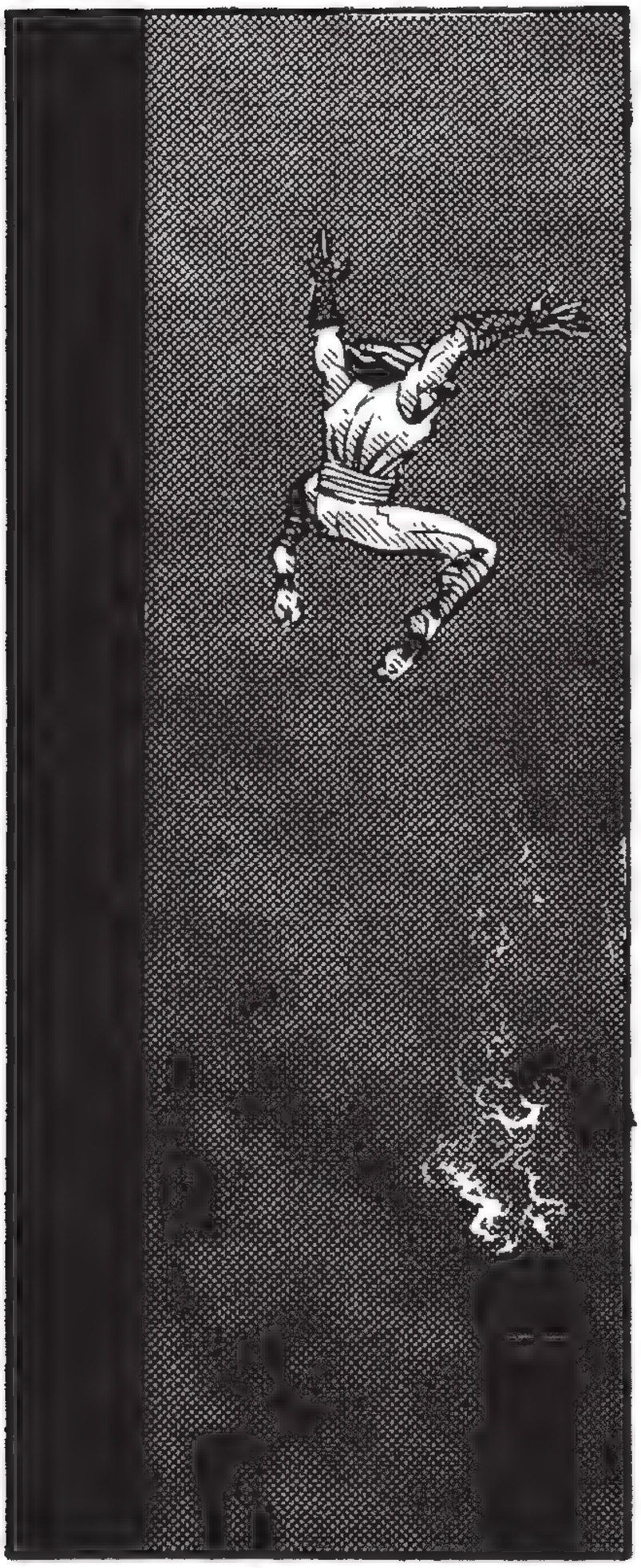
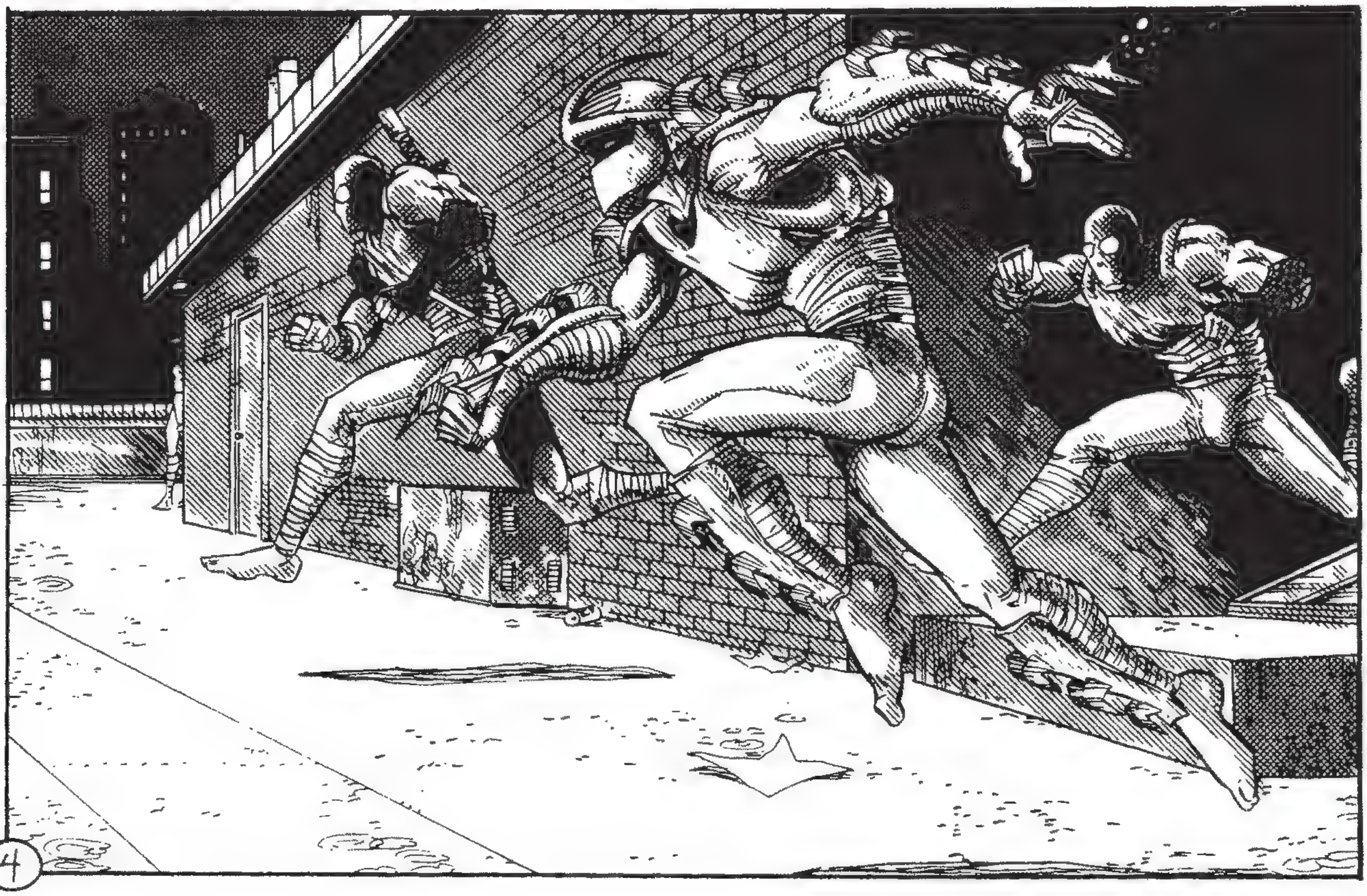








4

NO--!

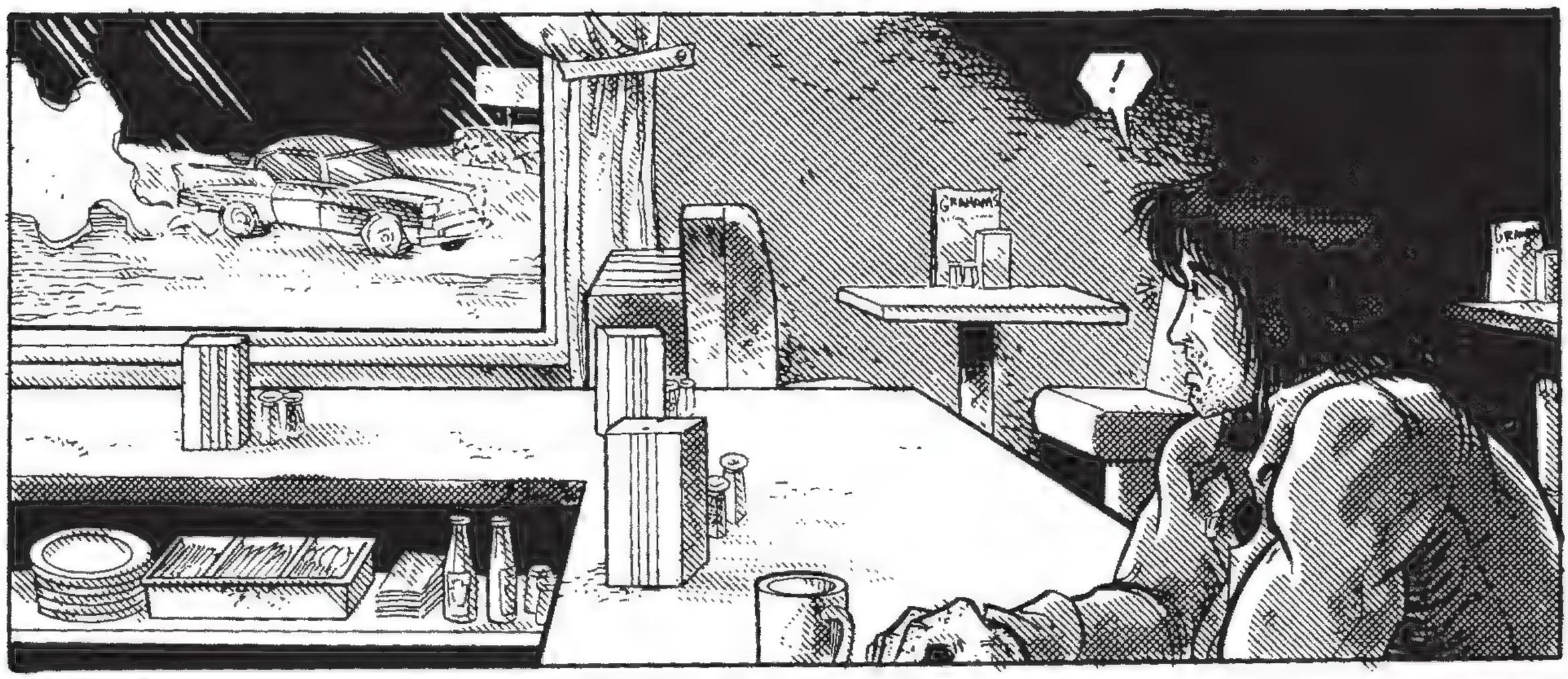
CAN IT BE...?

MASTER...!!

-SITUATION IN SARAJEVO REMAINS TENSE AS RIVAL FACTIONS BATTLE FOR CONTROL. THIRTY-TWO PEOPLE DIED YESTERDAY...

"...WHEN SERBIAN GUNNERS TARGETED A WATER SUPPLY STATION..."

"MORE NEWS AFTER THIS..."


!
GRAHAM'S

HEY, CASEY-- 'NOTHER REFILL?
CASEY... YOU OKAY?
MAY
6

MY CAR...

HUH? YEAH...

YOU WANT ME TO CALL THE COPS?
NO...
...I'LL HANDLE IT.

SO I SAYS TA HER... I SAYS--

GET THIS... I GO...

--WHA--?

UFF--!

UGRR... I'LL GETCHA FOR THAT--!

HUH--?!

7

H-HOW'D YOU DO THAT--?

JUST A LITTLE MOVE I PICKED UP... WATCHIN' FOUR BUDDIES OF MINE...

...DEAL WITH DIRT BAGS LIKE YOU!

UNGH!

HEH!

GRAB 'IM!

UNH--!

GOT HIM!

8

HOLD 'IM STILL...

--AN I'LL KICK HIS--

YEAH, RIGHT...

GUK!

...YOU JUST KEEP THINKIN' THAT, GREASEHEAD... WHILE I SHOW YOU WHY STEALIN' MY CAR WAS A **BAD** MISTAKE...

...AND SHOWIN' UP HERE AND NOW... WELL...

GAH!

...THAT'S AN EVEN BADDER MISTAKE!

'CUZ IT'S PAYBACK TIME, CREEPS...

9

AHAM'S
NE GRIM

DAD APPROVED

...AN CASEY JONES ALWAYS COLLECTS!

UH--!

UK--!

AHHH... YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY...

USED TO BE... I'D DO A LOT WORSE...

BUT YOU GUYS... YER JUST NOT WORTH IT.

Chevrolet

10

?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING...

GRR GRR

GRRR

YIPE!

HEY--!

BOOT

BRWWAAAAAA

SPRAIN GRAIN

GOODTIME

"MY STRENGTH... HAS RETURNED... MY LEG HAS HEALED.

"IT IS TIME TO SEEK A WAY OUT..."

...A WAY HOME."

"I ONLY WISH THAT I COULD THANK... THE ONE WHO LED ME THROUGH THIS CRISIS..."

THE ONE WHO MADE ME SEE."

"WHERE ARE YOU, RAT KING?"

12

WH--?

!

AH... ONCE MORE, THE UNIVERSE ALLOWS A GLIMPSE... OF ITS MYRIAD WONDERS...

...ITS IMPONDERABLE MYSTERIES!

YET, IT IS EVER SO...FROM LIFE, DEATH...

...AND FROM DEATH...

LIFE!

13

NOW... TO SEE IF SKILLS LONG UNUSED...

...ARE STILL SUFFICIENT!

UNGH...!

...MUST... BE...

TERRIBLE ...STRAIN... BUT...MUST KEEP CLIMBING!

--FREE!!!

14

EAST 70

EAST 70

The BABY BOOK

15

WAIT HERE... WE'LL JUST BE A MINUTE.

YOU GOT IT, LADY.

TAXI

NO

WELL, THERE IT IS, APRIL...

NO TRES-PASSING

...I WONDER WHY IT HASN'T BEEN DEMOLISHED YET? THE WAY THIS CITY GOBBLES UP ANY SPACE...

FENNET SAID SOME LEGAL HASSLE WAS HOLDING THINGS UP... BUT THAT WILL LIKELY BE SETTLED SOON.

THIS COULD BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO SEE THE OLD PLACE...

16

24 HOUR PA
TAYLOR
TURN RIGH
Second Time Around
THIS PROPERTY CONDEMNED BY ORDER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
NO TRESPASSING
GOD...
...I HATE SEEING IT LIKE THIS! GROWING UP-- THERE WAS SO MUCH LIFE HERE--!
17

I KNOW... NOW IT JUST LOOKS LIKE... LIKE DEATH.

MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAT IT'LL BE TORN DOWN...

I MEAN... EVERYTHING PASSES... HUH, APRIL?

YEAH... SEEMS LIKE NOTHING'S...

...PERMANENT.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I'M NOT REALLY SURE... I'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS TO WORK OUT...

WELL...

...I GUESS I'D BETTER GO IF I'M TO CATCH MY FLIGHT... I'LL CALL YOU LATER THIS WEEK.

TAKE CARE, APRIL.

YOU, TOO, ROBYN...

10

HMH?!

TINK

HMM... PROBABLY JUST THE WIND... OR A RAT...

...A RAT... SIGH...

TAXI!

WHERE TO, MISS?

ANY-WHERE...

APRIL...

"...AS LONG AS IT'S AWAY FROM HERE."

SHH... QUIET, MIKE...

BUT--

WHAT KINDA CRAP IS THIS, KARAI?!

WHY ARE WE STOPPING... HERE?

RAPH...

20

CALL IT... CURIOSITY. THOUGH I HAVE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE TONIGHT...

...THIS PLACE HOLDS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR ME... FOR THE FOOT CLAN... AND, OF COURSE, FOR YOU.

IT WAS HERE THAT YOU FIRST LIVED AMONG HUMANS...

...HERE THAT OROKU SAKI, THE SHREDDER, REAPPEARED...

...HERE YOU BEGAN YOUR EXODUS FROM THIS CITY--AN EXODUS THAT EVENTUALLY LED YOU BACK...TO KILL THE SHREDDER A SECOND TIME...

...WHICH IN TURN SET IN MOTION THIS WAR IN THE CITY... AND BROUGHT US TO OUR CURRENT SITUATION.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND...

...I HAD TO SEE THIS PLACE.

21

MAN, I HATE HAVING THE FOOT HERE ...THEY BURNED THIS PLACE DOWN!

KINDA MAKES ME WONDER WHAT THE HELL'S IN STORE FOR US NEXT...

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...

HEY! C'MON, LET'S GO!

SHH!

?

WHAT IS IT, LEO?

A GHOST... FROM THE PAST.

ENOUGH REMINISCING... WE HAVE A JOB TO DO.

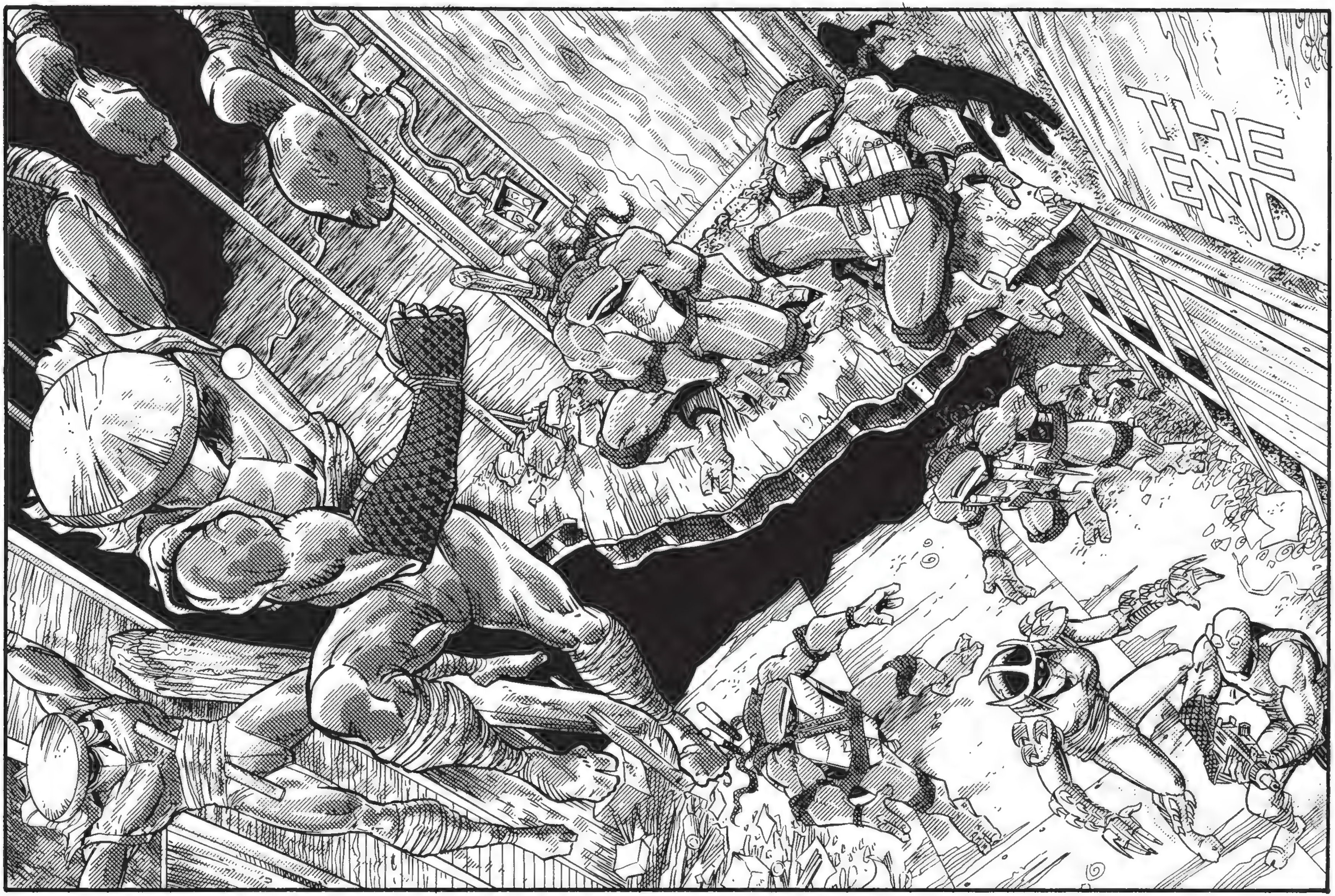
...AND SCORES TO SETTLE.

LET'S MOVE ON.

CRACK!

WHAT'S THAT--?!

23


THE END

ANNOTATIONS

KEVIN EASTMAN

Page 1-5: The introduction here is awesome, with the TMNTs working away at something, and the Elite hunting them, but I'll get back to that in a minute... "Master?" Nice setup.

Page 1: Casey, sad, mad, and trying to deal with Gabe's death. When the guys that stole his car show up WITH his car, the fight that follows is GENIUS! A perfect wrap-up—although I never liked the dog-kicking scene, which seemed very out of place.

Page 13: And finally, we get the awesome reveal that The Rat King had been dead the entire time, and was just a strong and well-told part of Splinter's healing process. The mind can be one's greatest enemy. This was something we always tried to make part of Splinter's character and personality—the father has his own issues and own faults, and is struggling like his sons to keep it all together. Makes him more human in the end, and relatable to us all.

Plus, he finally gets free from his cage, and is ready to face the next part of his life with a completely different perspective... much like Casey does in the next scene.

Page 15: Casey, on the road with the baby—who is not even his baby—ready to face whatever comes next... very nice, and it leads beautifully into the April scene.

Page 17: April and Robyn at the "Second Time Around Shop" wrapping up this part of their life, and being spotted by Mike, while Don—not knowing she's there—convinces him to keep it quiet for now, which then ties wonderfully to Karai entering as Shredder, dressed as her father to confuse the Elite...

It's great how her speech relates everything to the "Return to New York" series when the Shredder came back for the last time, which was how the "City at War" officially started.

Again, another issue perfectly told by Peter and Jim, and an awesome milestone in this series as it heads towards the end.

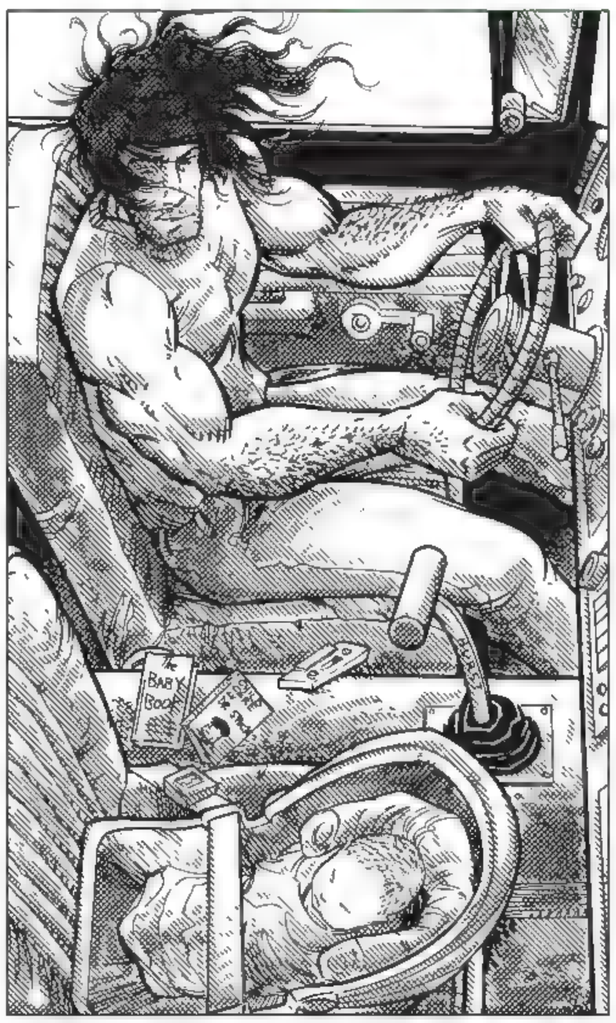
PETER LAIRD

It's funny to read the editorial on the inside front cover of this issue's original run, wherein we talk about the upcoming "Next" imprint comics that Mike Dooney, Craig Farley, and I were going to be doing—*Xenotech*, *Bioneers*, and *Stupid Heroes*, respectively. It was a fun concept—a "shared universe" of superheroes that the three of us collaborated on. Actually, we'd each come up with separate concepts and then find ways to link them together with shared background details.

As they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Not that the end result of this effort was hellish, but it never went anywhere. We got a few books out, and then it fell apart. Too bad.

Page 10: What a great action pose for Casey on this page! Jim really kicked some serious butt on these books, and it shows on pages like this.

Page 13: One of my favorite pages from all of the TMNT books, and especially this series—not so much for the drawing (though it is very nice), but for the ideas. I love the fact that we left the real nature of Splinter's interaction with the Rat King ambiguous.



Page 15: Another example of why Jim Lawson is a great cartoonist—look at the large bottom panel and take in all the details, the gestures (Casey glancing over at his new baby daughter with an expression of mingled happiness and consternation). This type of composition—a scene inside a car, from above—is difficult to pull off, but Jim makes it look easy.

Page 19: The various segments of this story arc begin to come together—if only peripherally—on this page, as April, having just said goodbye to her sister Robyn, gazes at the burned-out shell of her old home and business... unaware that within that condemned building, the Turtles—and Karai and the Foot—are watching her, and making plans to deal with the Shredder's Elite guards.

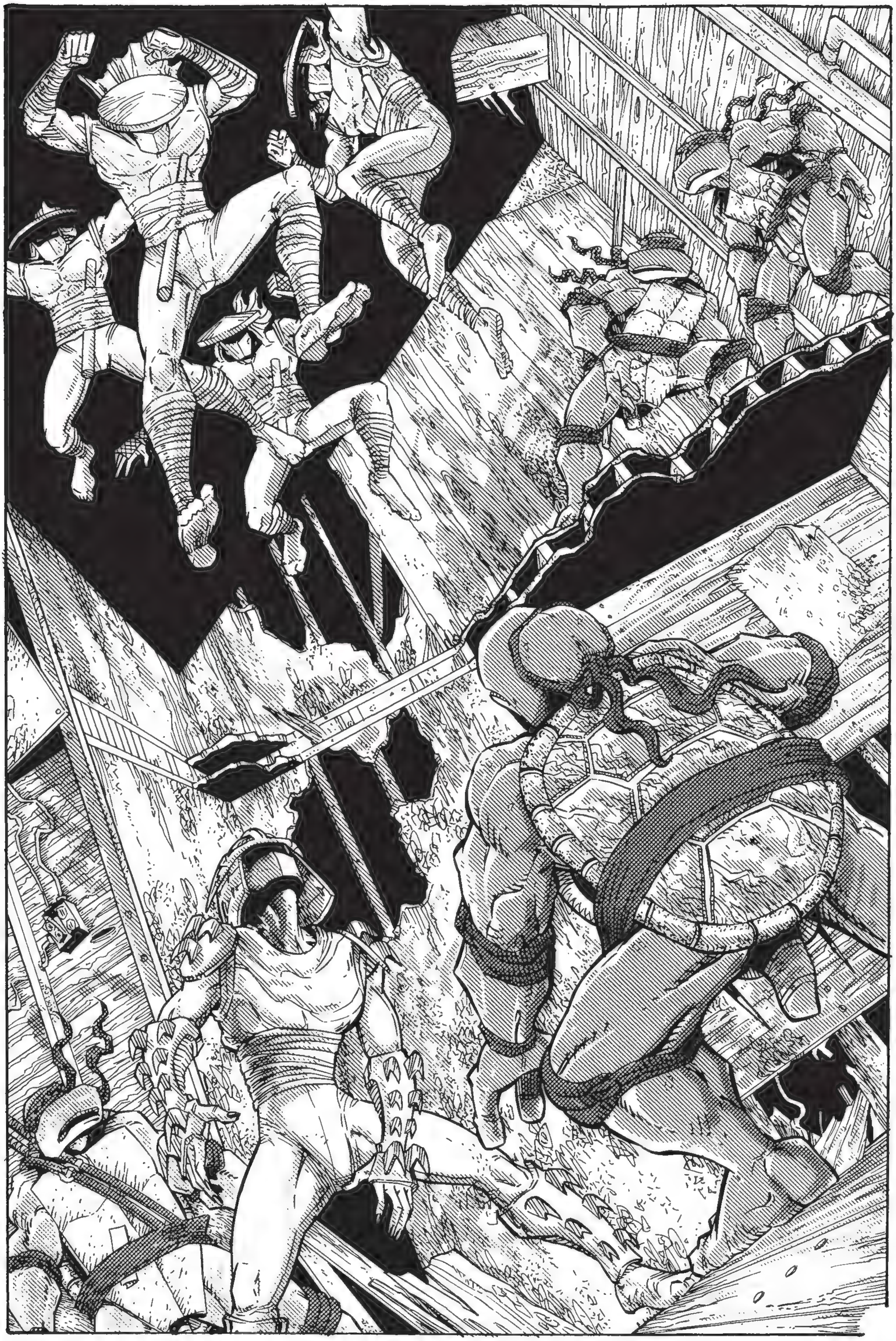
$2.25 USA/$2.75 CANADA ISSUE 60 JUNE 1993

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

PART ELEVEN OF THIRTEEN

CITY AT WAR

60



!?

2

TRAITORS! I TRAINED YOU TO BE STEEL TIGERS ...NOT MAD DOGS!

YOU DISHONOR ME...

AND YOU DISHONOR THE FOOT CLAN.

Y-YES.

I-I OBEY MASTER SHREDDER...

ALL OF YOU-- COMMIT SEPPUKU! NOW!!

SHKK

TOMEI--?

...BUT WE ARE NOT SO CREDULOUS! IF YOU ARE THE MASTER...SHOW US YOUR FACE!

HUH... HIS MIND WAS ALWAYS WEAK.

DOG! YOU DARE--?!

VERY WELL...

...YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WISH.

BEFORE I SLAY YOU --AND ALL OTHERS WHO DOUBT--

--I WILL SHOW YOU...

4

...MY FACE!

!

LOOK WELL FOOLS... GAZE UPON THE FACE OF VENGEANCE...

...AND SEE YOUR DOOM!!!

!

?

...

NOW--WHILE THEY'RE IN SHOCK--!

LET'S DO IT!

5

YEAH, YEAH, WHADDYA--

HUH?!

ARNOLD!

HI, MA!

WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?

OH, ARNOLD, WHAT DID YOU DO...GO AND GET SOME GIRL PREGNANT?

NOT EXACTLY... CAN I COME IN MA?

SURE! MOVING BACK IN, ARE YOU?

WELL...

MAYBE FOR A LITTLE BIT...UNTIL I CAN GET US OUR OWN PLACE...

DON'T BE SILLY, ARNOLD.

I GOT AN EMPTY THREE-ROOM IN THE BASEMENT.

THANKS, MA...

SO...WHO DO WE HAVE HERE?

OH, WHAT A CUTIE-PIE!

THAT'S SHADOW...MY...UM ...DAUGHTER.

"SHADOW"? JEEZ, LET ME GUESS...

...YOU NAMED HER, RIGHT?

SURE DID!

IS SHE YOURS?

WELL,.. LEGALLY, YEAH... BIOLOGICALLY, NO.

SO...

WHERE'S THE MOTHER?

IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY, MA...

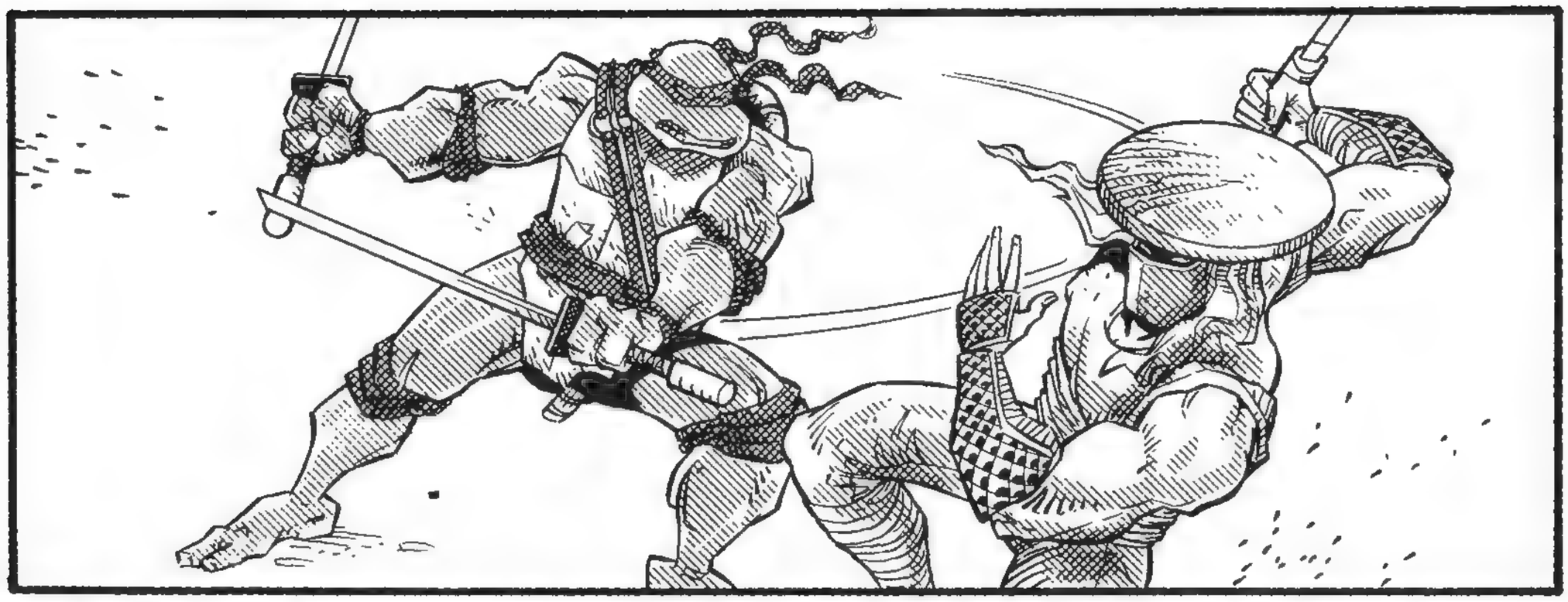
WELL, I GOT ALL DAY.

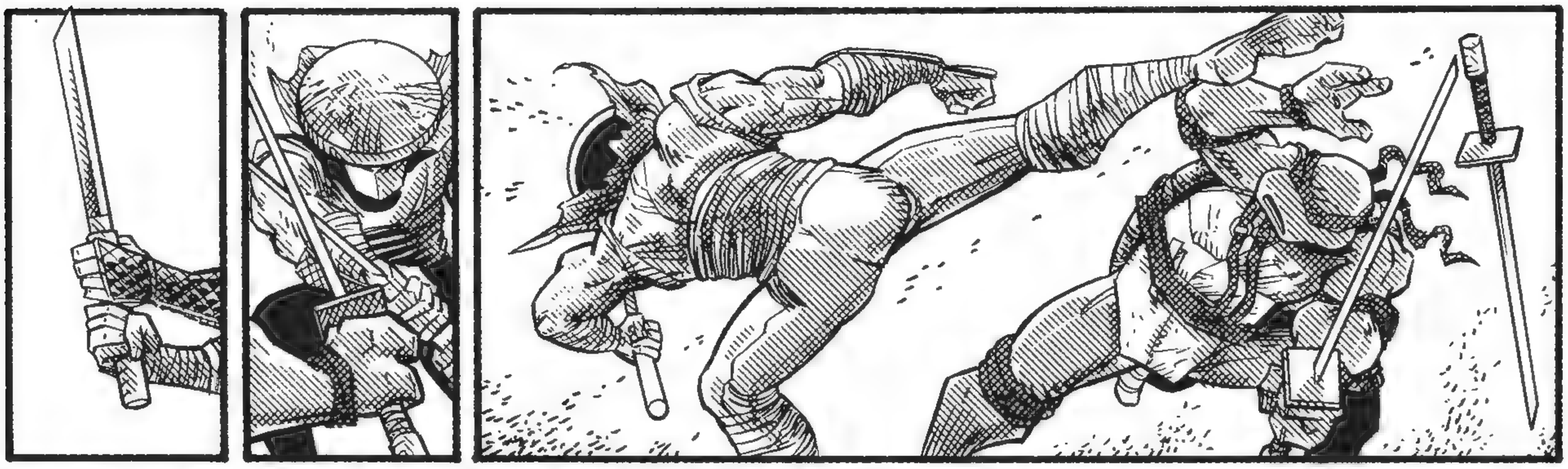
HAVE A SEAT, ARNOLD.

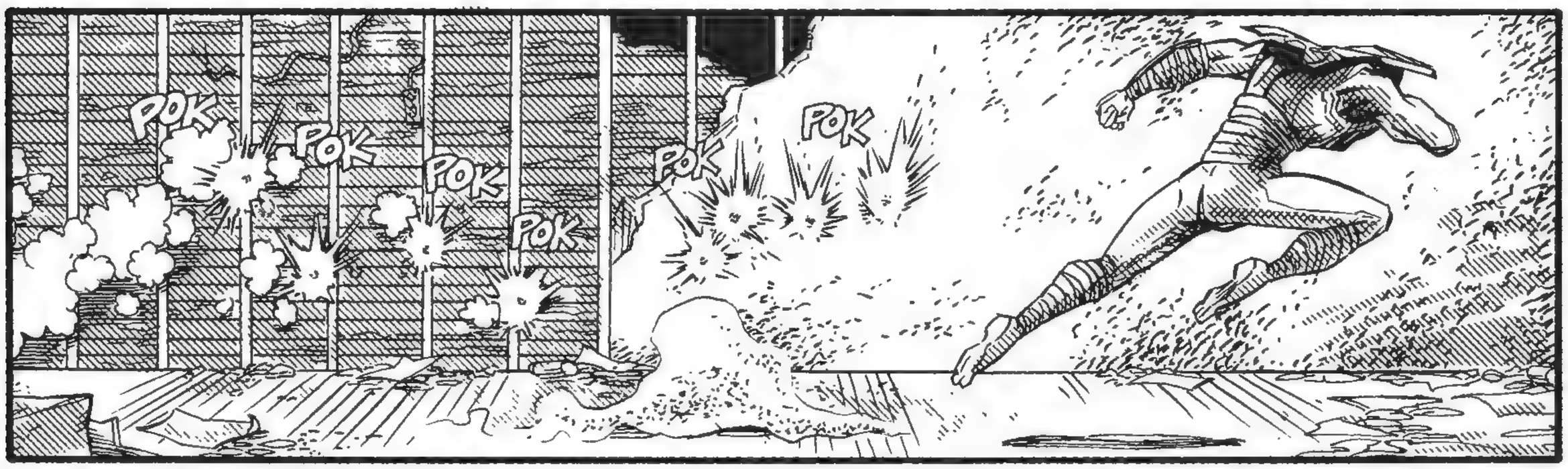
MA...

...DON'T CALL ME ARNOLD.

8



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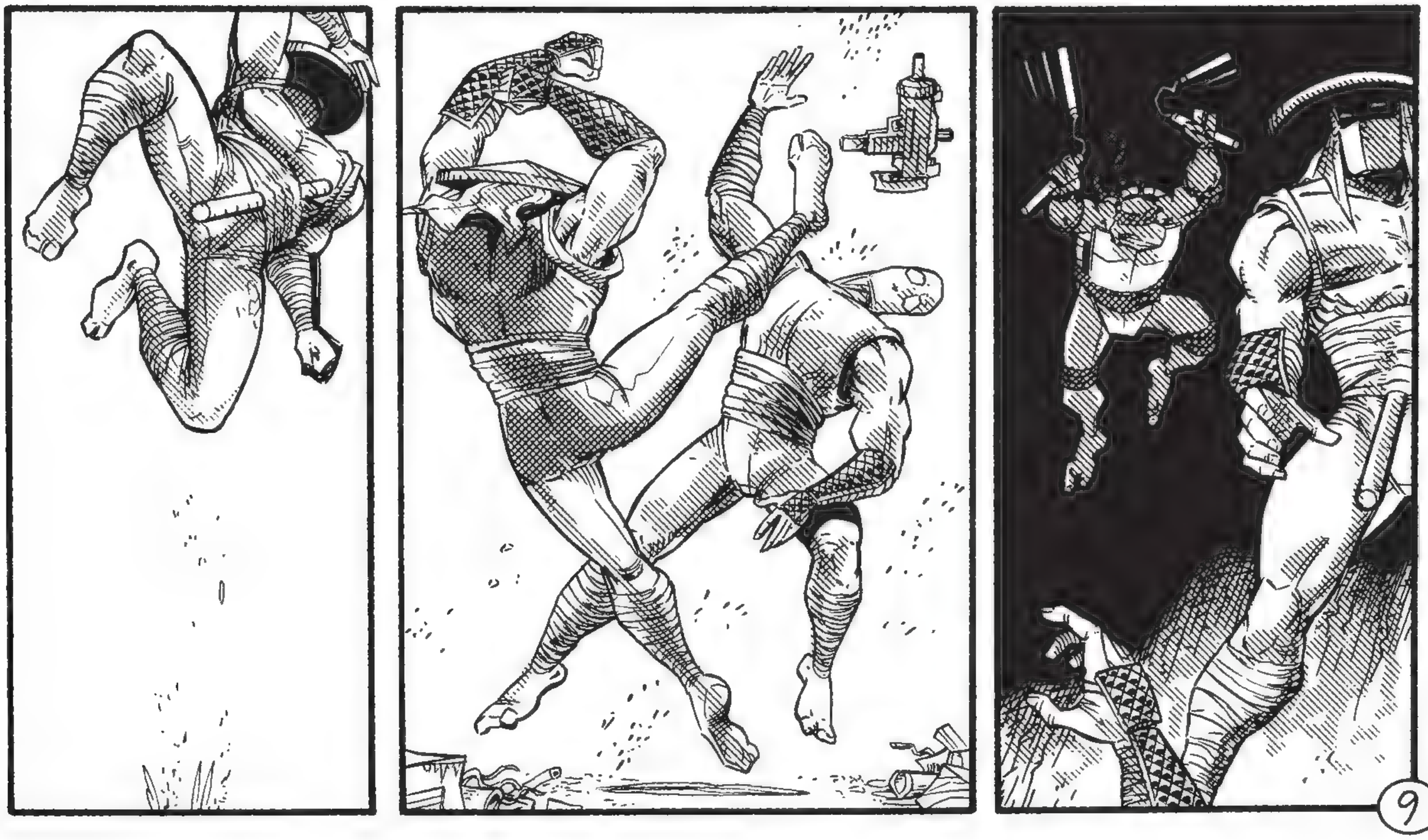
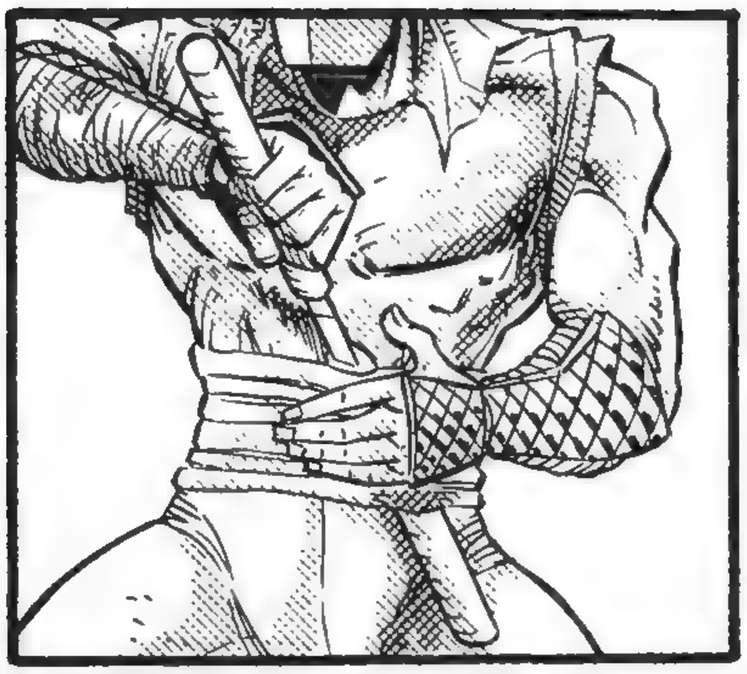
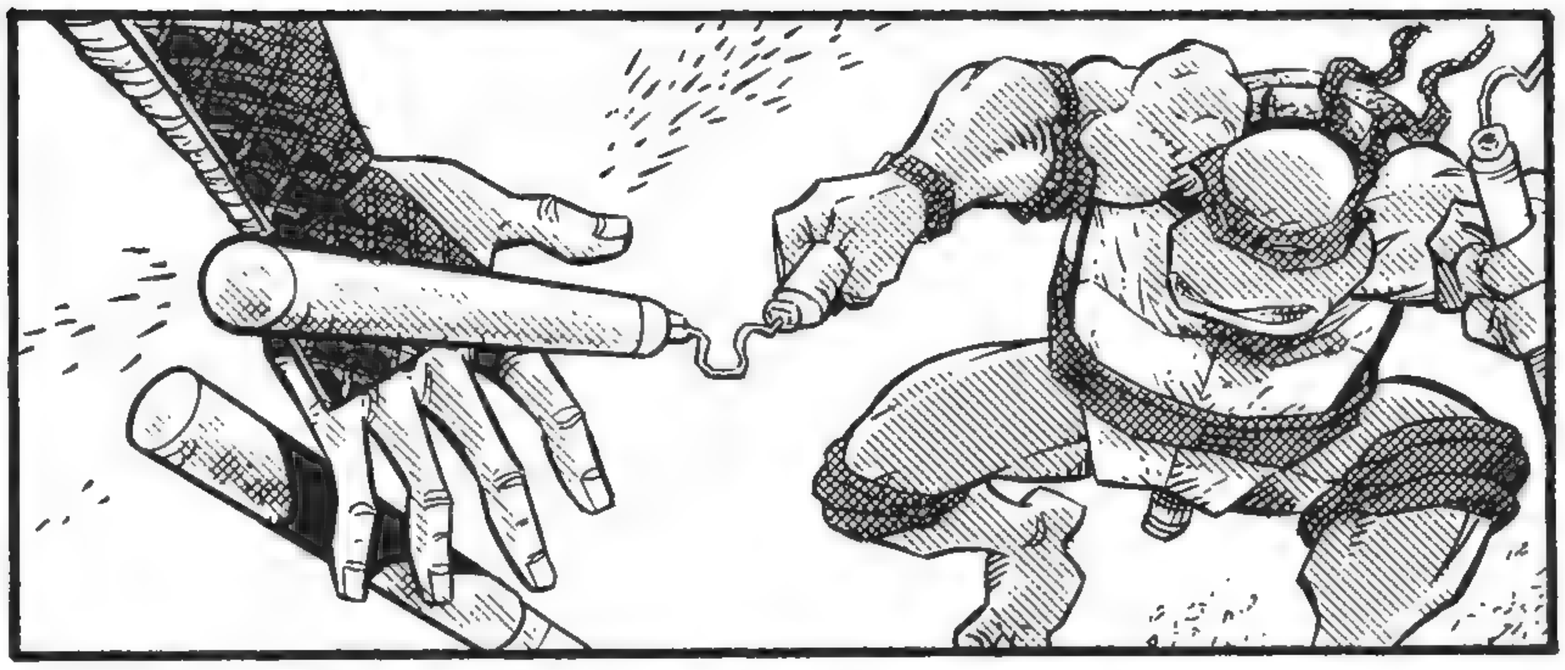
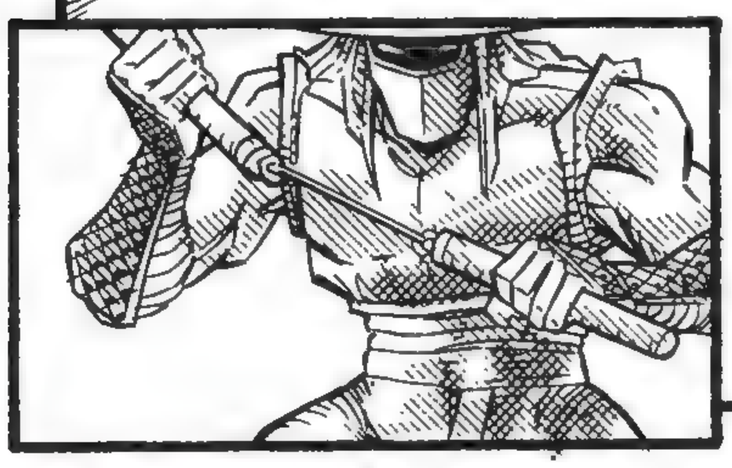


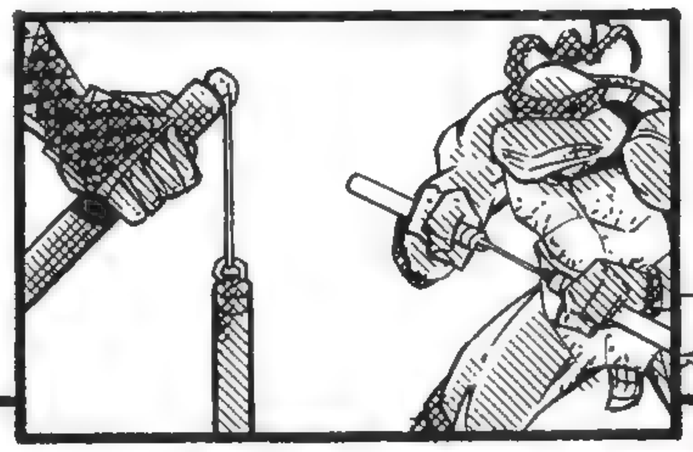


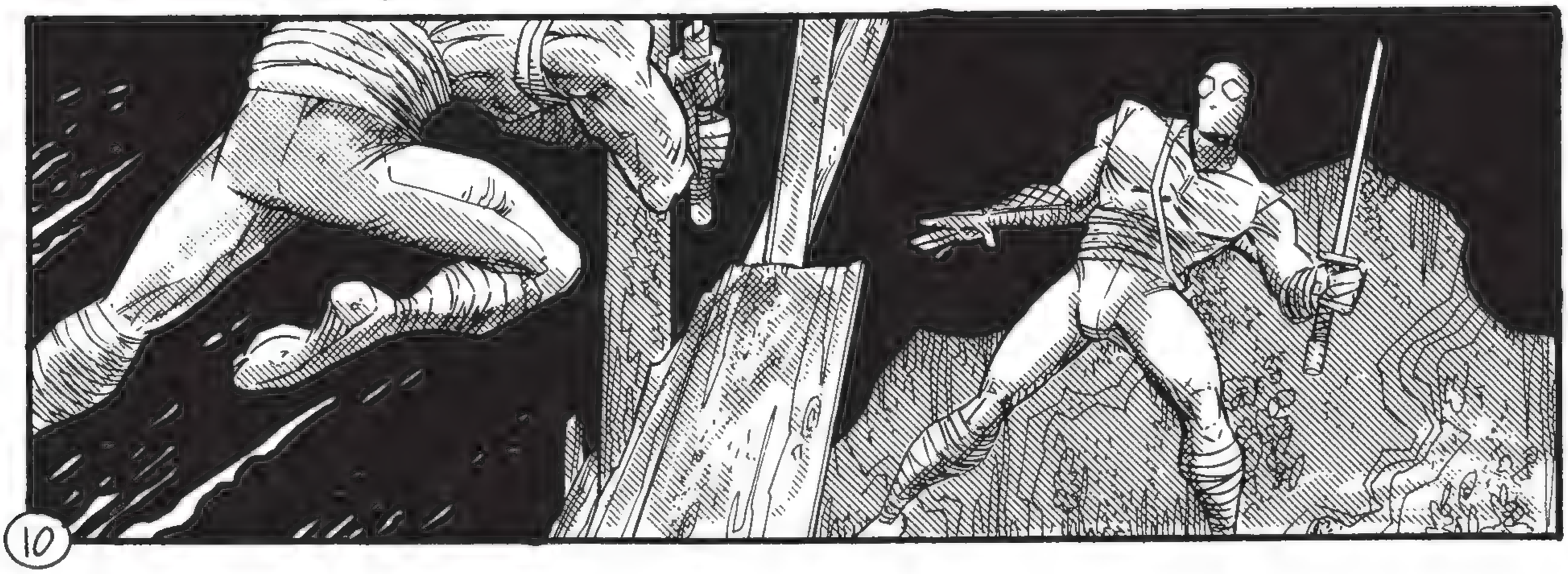


THEP

UNGH...!







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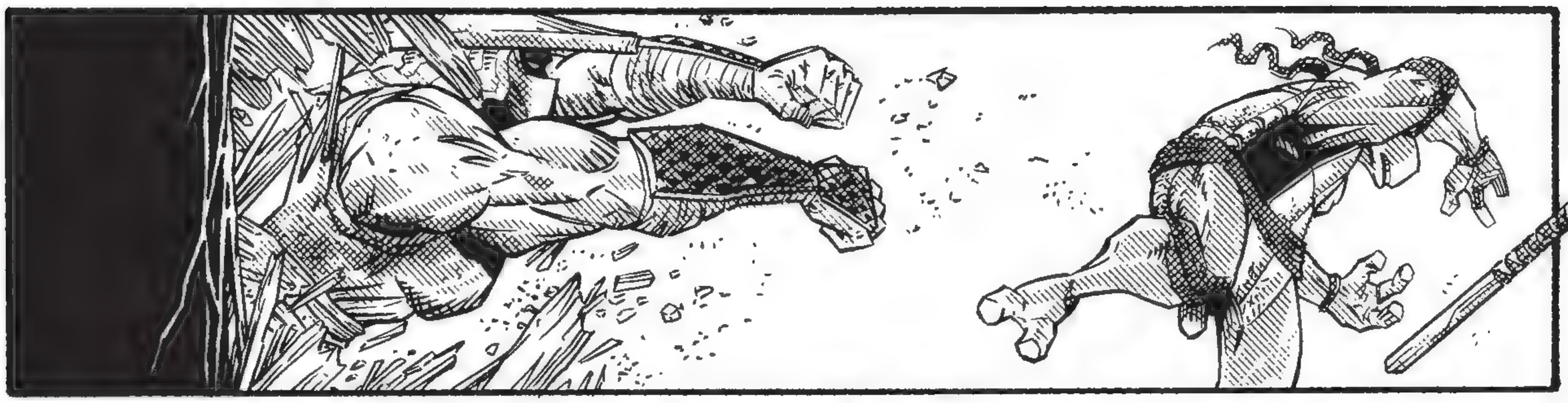
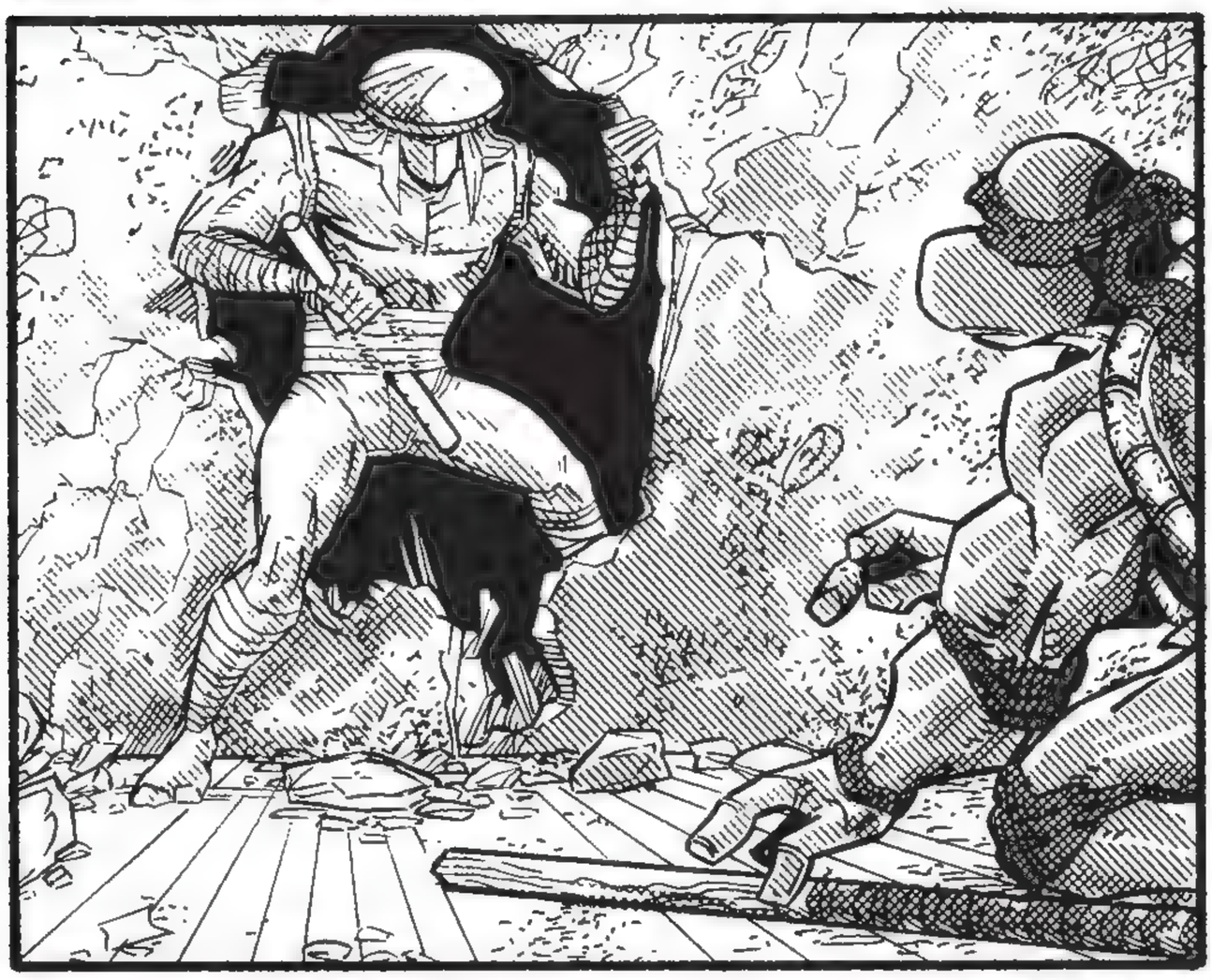
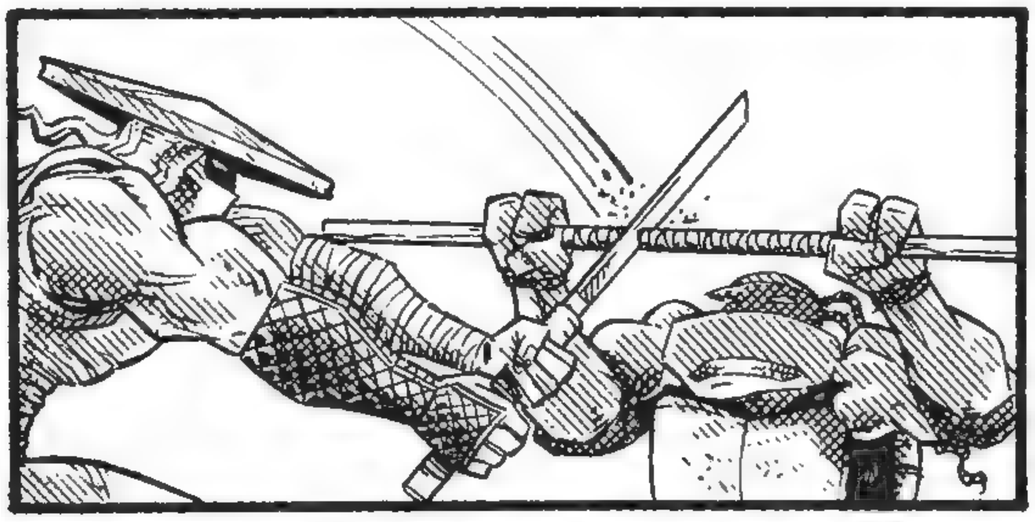
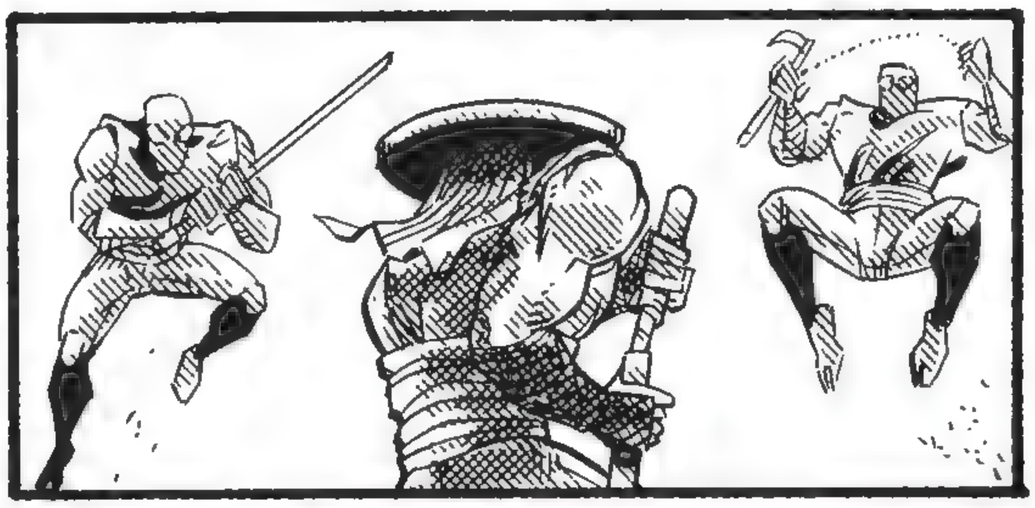
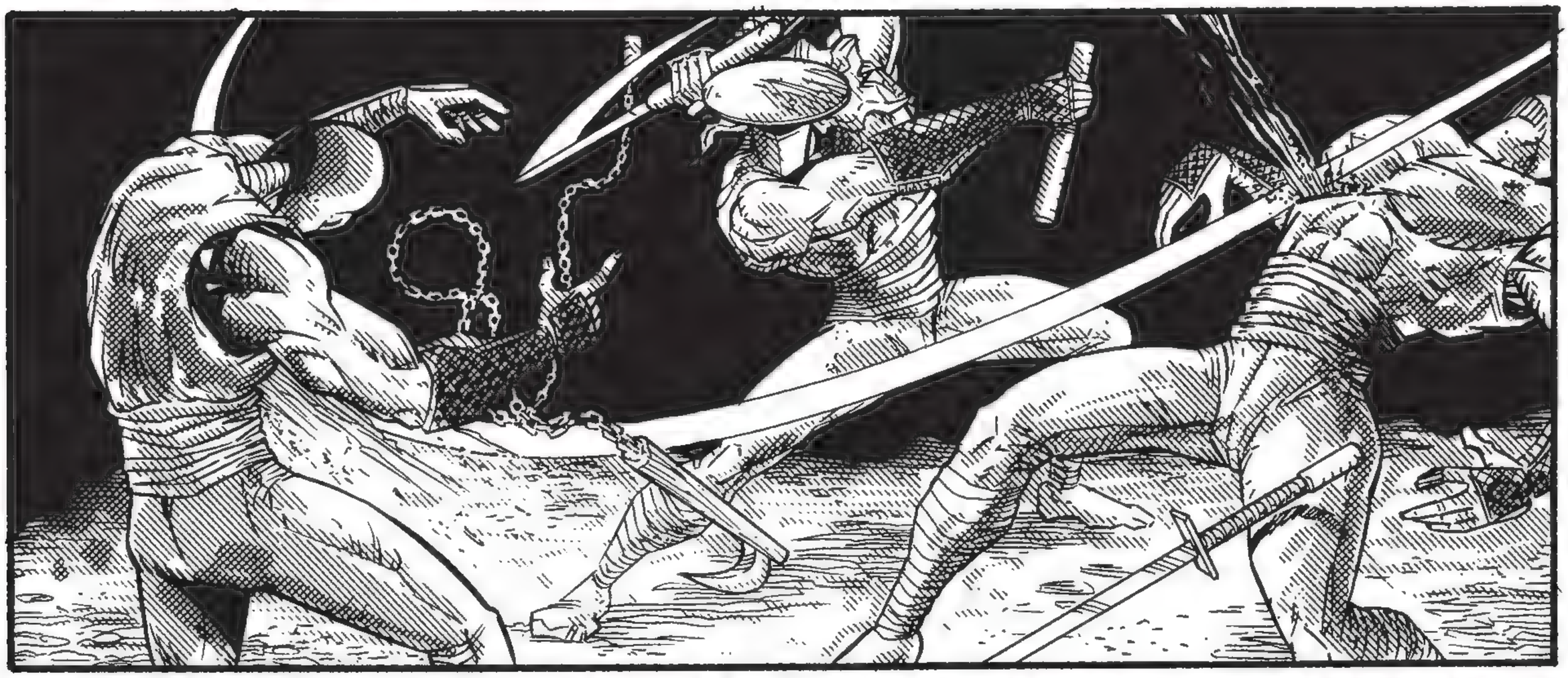
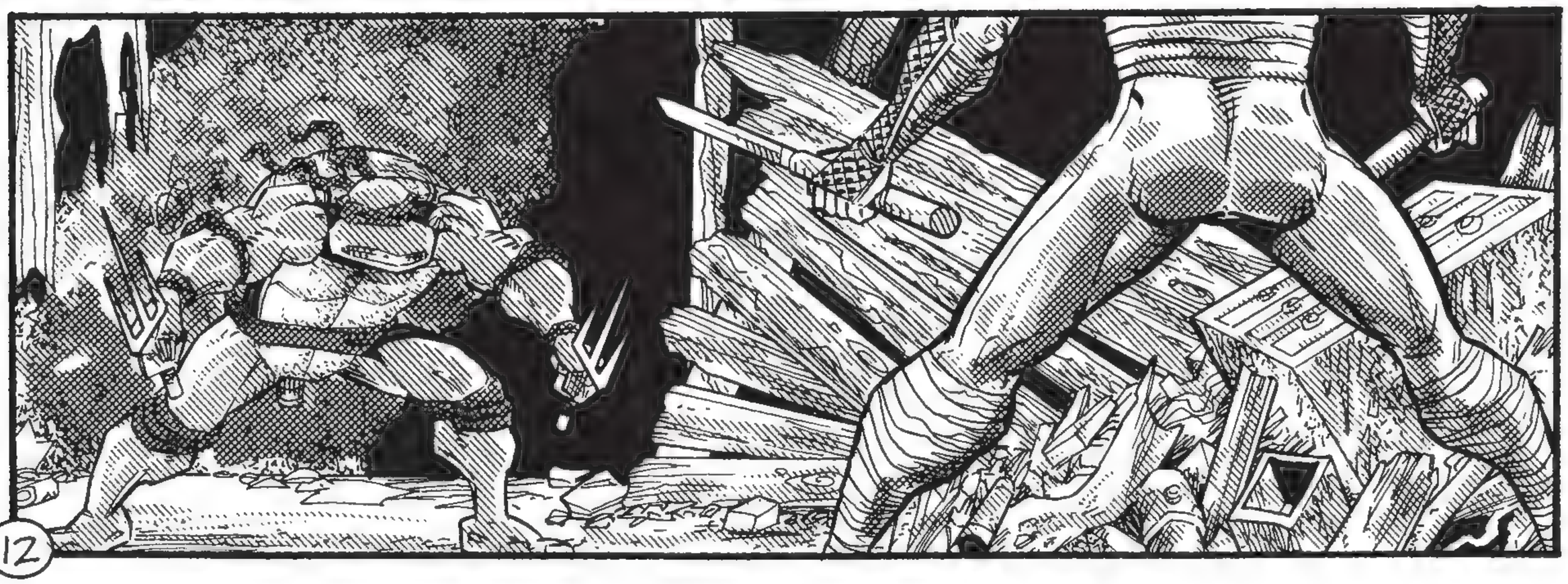












12

CHK

!

BDDBDDBDRRRRPP

SHTHK

13

SLOPPY MOOSE

MOORE CAWFEE...?

SURE... FILL 'ER UP.

THE NEW YORK DAILY TIMES

E9

REAL ESTATE

RENTAL PROPERTIES

STUDIO

1 ROOM

APT

CLOSET $250.00

WAYNE MANOR STATELY!

1½ BATH

2 BATH

APT

FLAT

14

BUSCHEYEV
NATHANIEL R.

15

CHUD

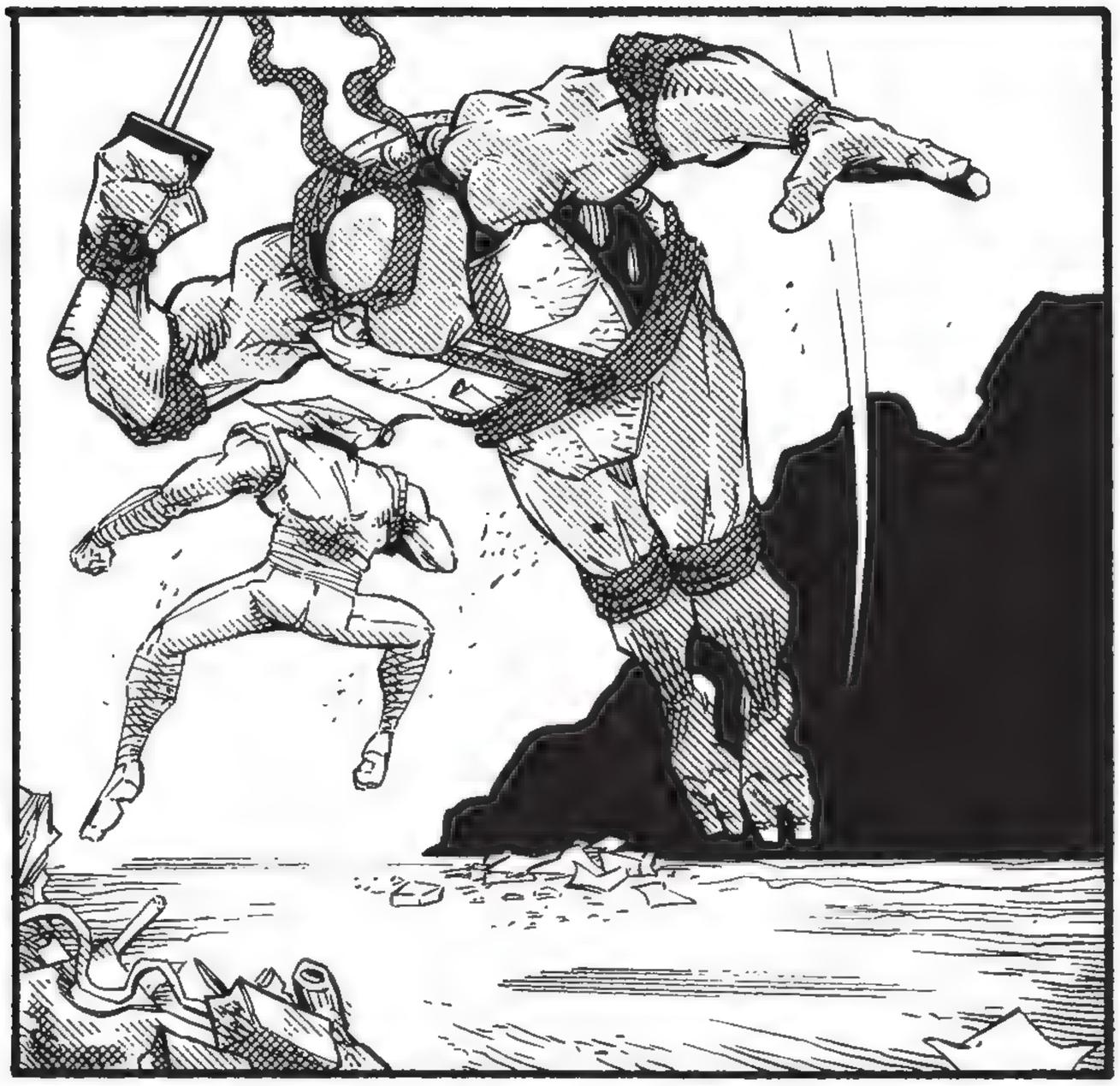
THOP

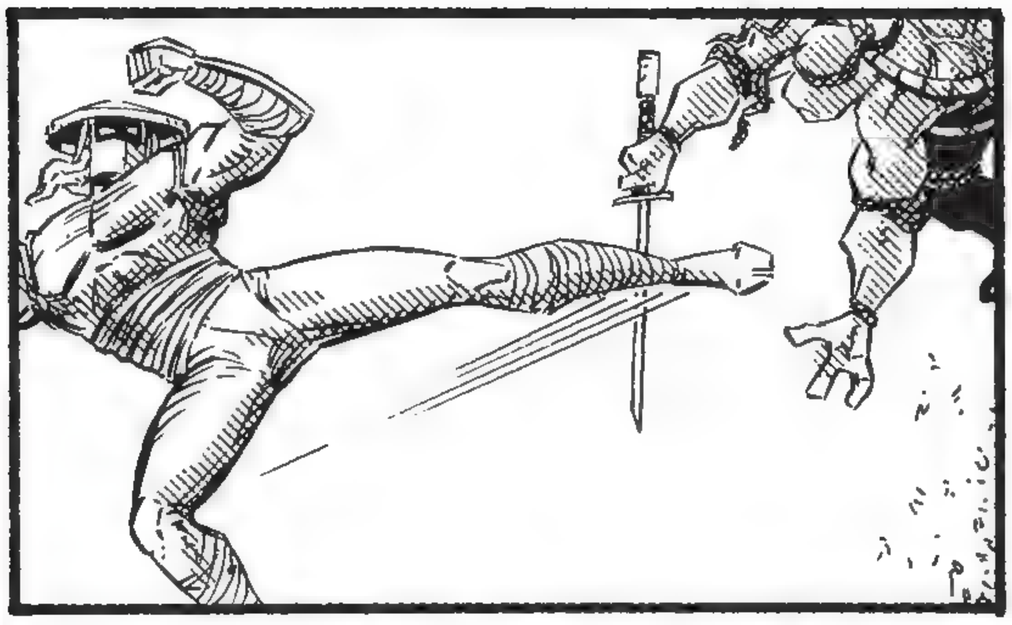
TUD

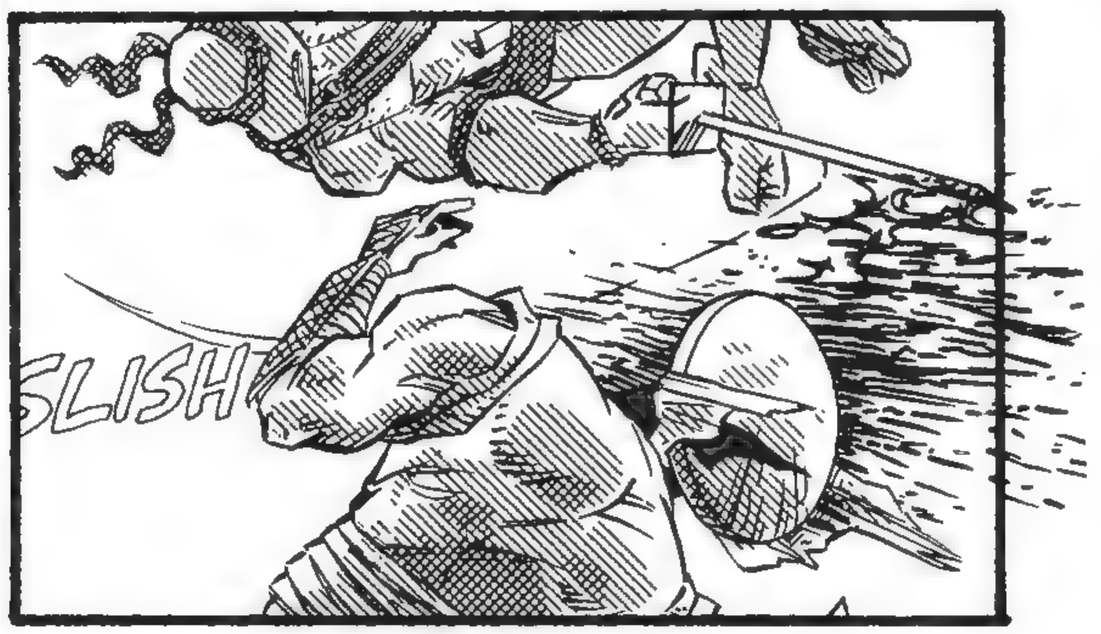
BAP

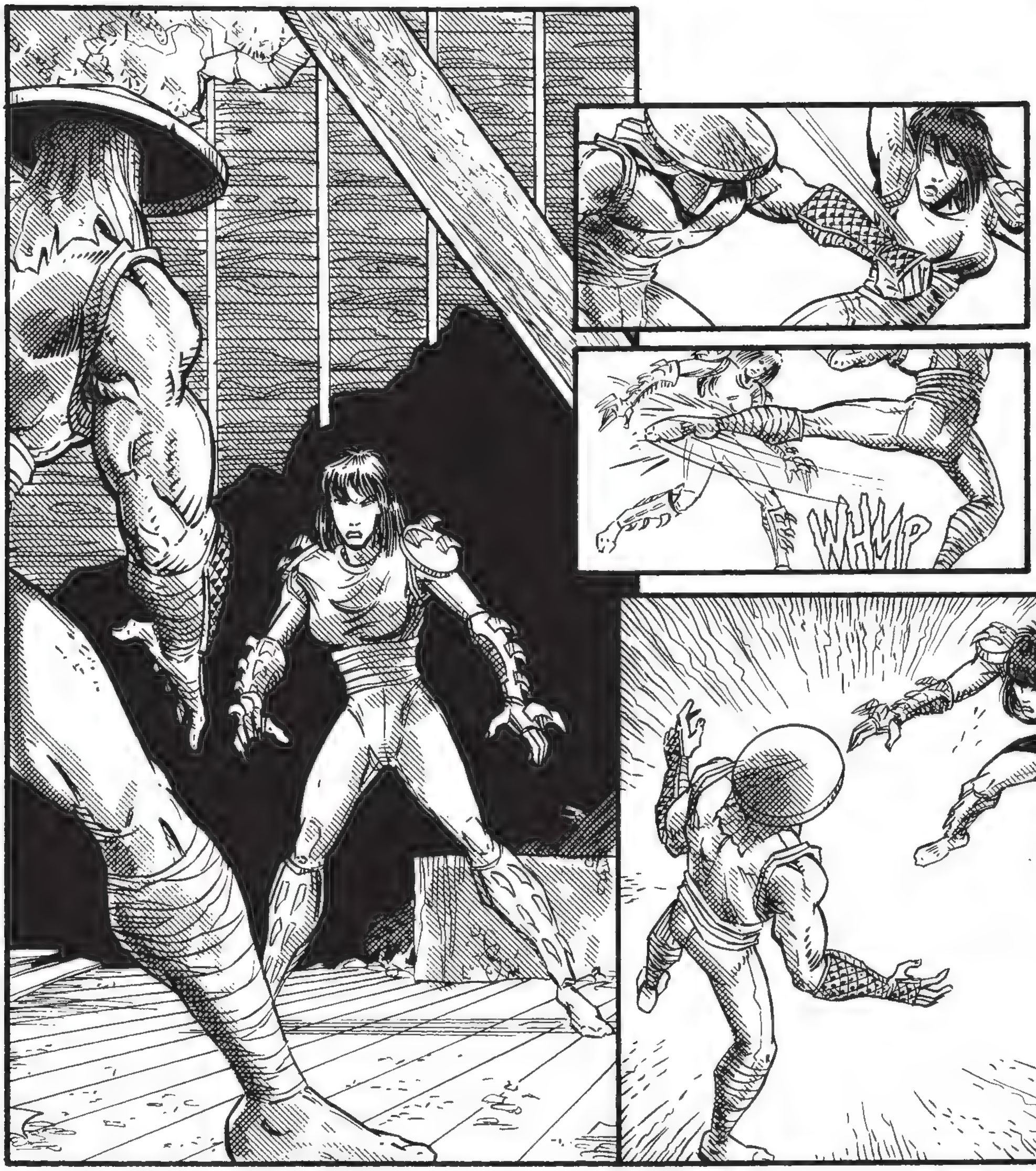
WUD

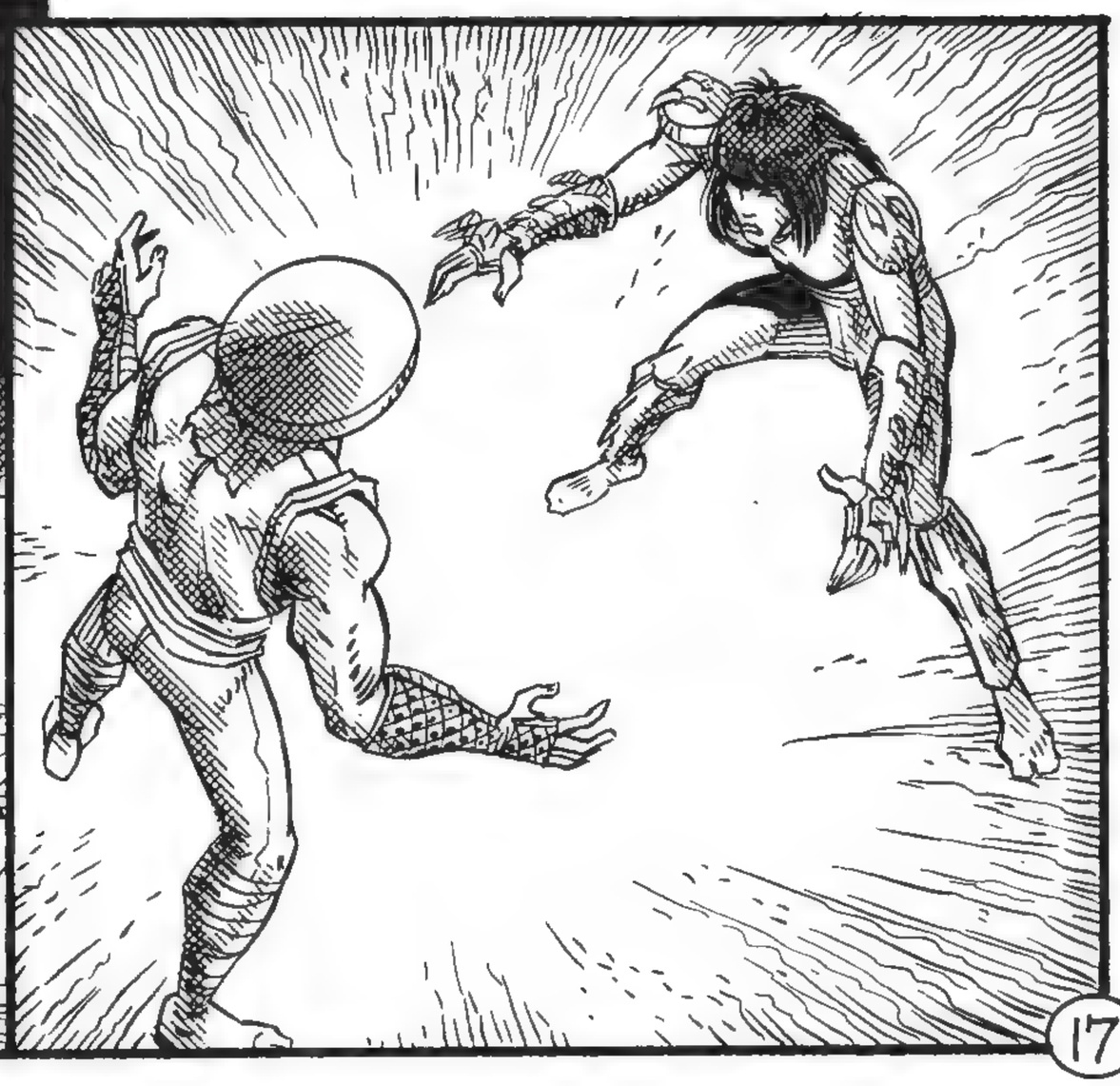
TANG











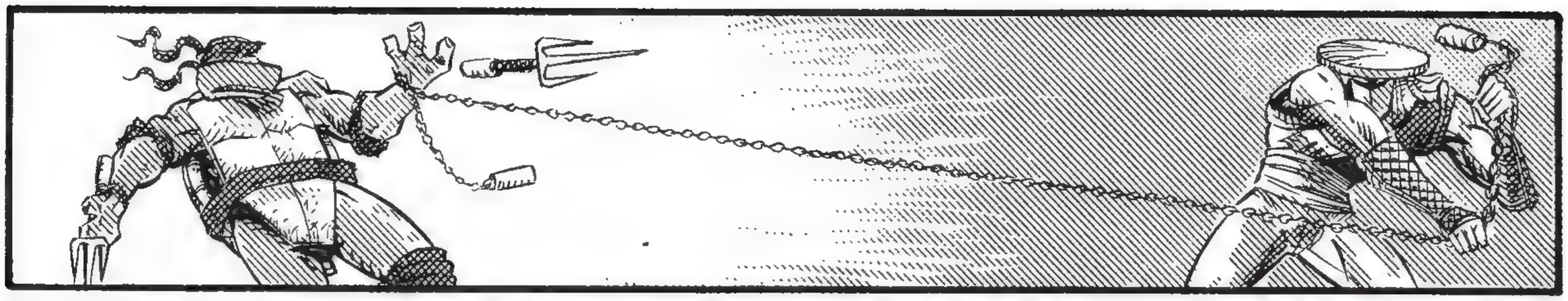
17

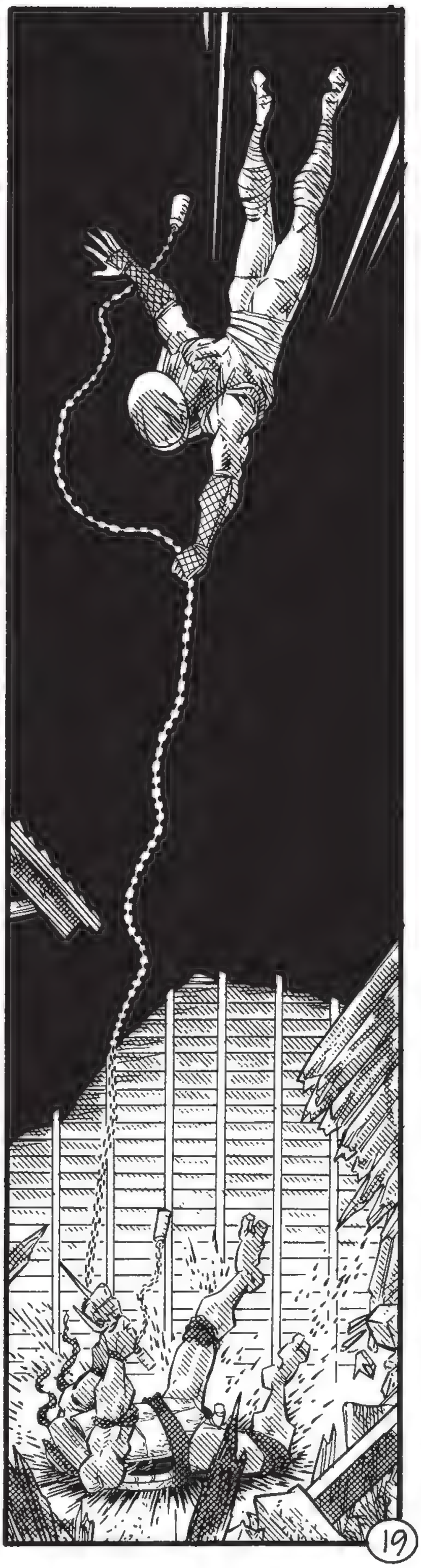
CLIK

WHISH

NNNGG

18





AAH--!!

THOMP!

UHCH...

ARCH...

NO...!

20

BLOOTCH

THOP

21

BUP

WHUD

THOD

UHH...

AAHGH!

KRAK!

AHHH--!

YOU--!

YOU PROFANE THE IMAGE OF OUR MASTER, THE SHREDDER--!

AND FOR THAT...

TEP

WHOO

YOU MUST DIE!!
THE END

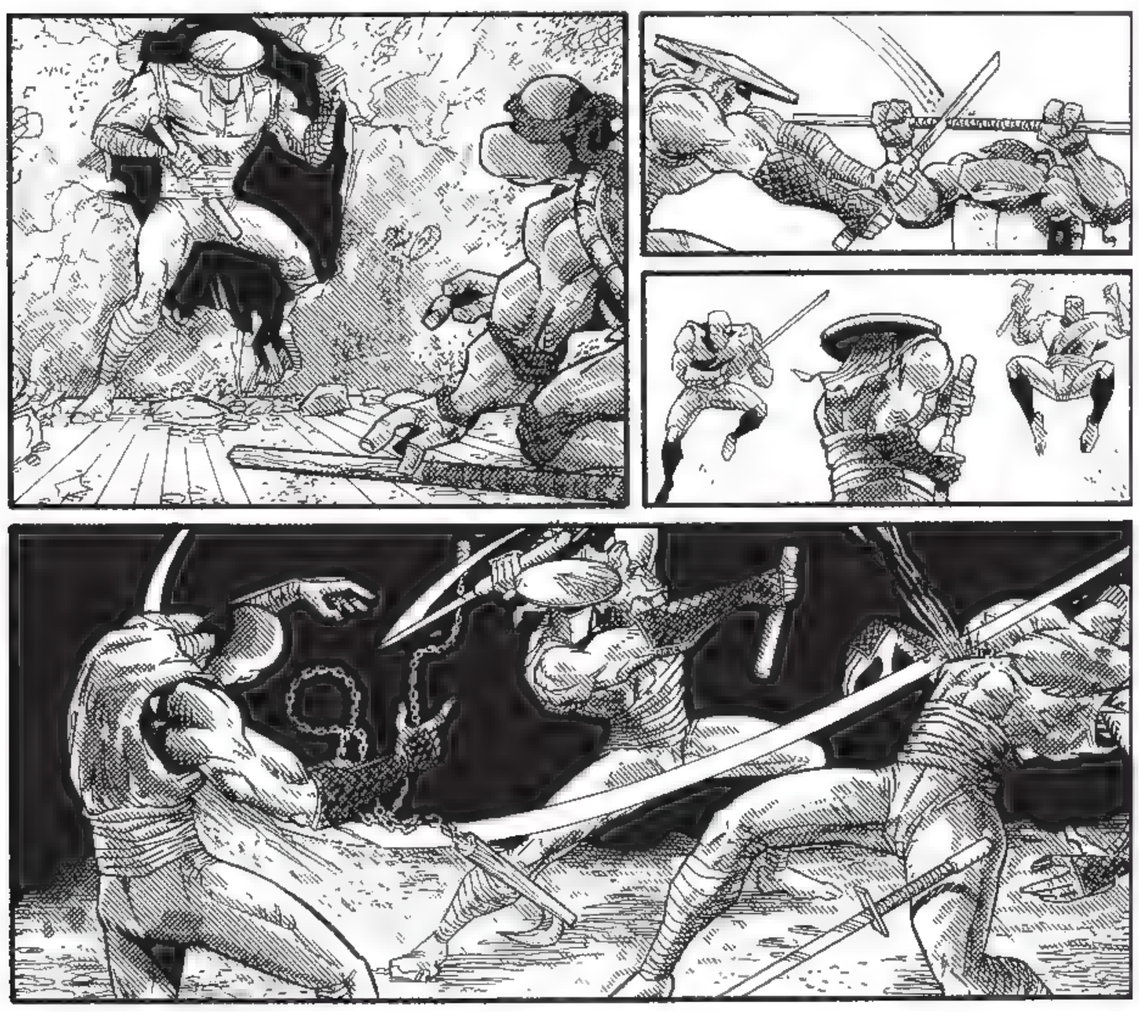
ANNOTATIONS

KEVIN EASTMAN

Love this cover. Hard to choose my favorite of the series—A.C. Farley rocks!

Page 3: The opening Elite attack, where Karai reveals herself as the NEW Shredder, is killer. This really sets up the final battle yet to come, and clearly establishes her as the new NYC villain, with the TMNTs fighting by her side. Very well-played, and a theme used still in some of the latest versions of the TMNTs.

Page 3: Arnold! I can't completely recall where this name came from for Casey, although I'm pretty sure it was a Peter Laird thought, and I don't think I ever really liked it, but I didn't hate it either… and in the end, it seemed to fit his character. Perfectly revealed by his mother here, as well as the baby's name, a daughter named "Shadow."



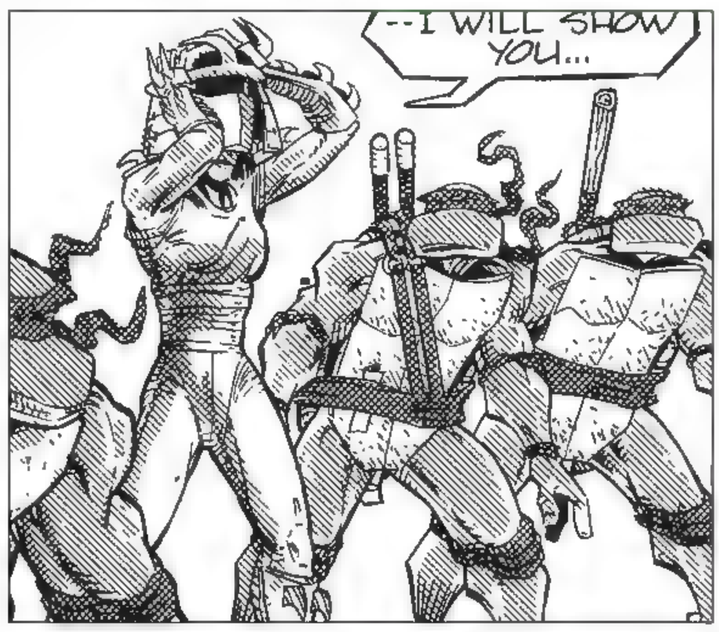
Page 9-13: This issue's full-on battle, which is incredibly intense and brutal, really provides the proper edge-of-your-seat plot point: showing how powerful the Elite are! As much as they get their asses kicked by Karai and the TMNTs, they give it right back to our guys. It is a VERY well-told showdown in this epic saga, and based on some of the comments in the letters pages, it was a real page-turner for the fans. Sweet when you can pull that off.

Page 14: We also flash to April finding her own way in the city she has returned to, looking for a place to live, as we see Nate in his final healing stages, ready to find out what is next for him. This kind of "networking" in the series really did hit its perfect stride here: the plot devices were coming in hot and heavy, and the timing was working as well. Even though Peter and I connected all these dots in our original story design, the main creative team, Peter and Jim, really had it going on at this point.

Page 24: The final splash page in this issue is to die for, dramatic and kickass. Jim and Keith were really hitting their stride here as well.

PETER LAIRD

The bulk of this issue is just PART of a long fight scene (it actually concludes in the first three pages of the following issue) between the five remaining Shredder Elite and the unlikely teaming of the Turtles with Karai and her Foot ninja. Jim Lawson put his heart and soul into these fight scenes, coming up with some wonderful pacing and choreography.



Page 3: I just LOVE this bit where Karai, who is dressed in what appears to be the Shredder's armor (an effort to confuse and distract the Elite) tries to get them all to commit ritual suicide at her command… and it actually works, but only on one of the Elite. I like this scene partly because it's so unexpected, and partly because it shows—if only for a very brief moment—that the Elite may be nearly supernaturally gifted in their fighting skills, but they are still human, with human weaknesses.

Page 7: We get to meet Casey's mother for the first time, and also learn his real first name—Arnold (Casey is his original middle name). Two things about that—first, I was recently reminded by a reader of my TMNT blog that we'd given Casey a different first name ("Casey Bernard Jones"), back in issue #11 of TMNT Volume One (which we'd very likely forgotten by the time we did this issue), and second, I believe we gave Casey this name as a "tip of the hat" to our pal and awesome cover artist Craig Farley. Craig usually signs his work "A.C. Farley," and we learned some while after meeting Craig that the "A" was for "Arnold."

Page 14: If memory serves, the waiter serving April her coffee in the lower left of this page is drawn to resemble Steve Murphy (at least how he looked at the time). And here's something EXTREMELY obscure—that character's one line ("Moore cawfee…?") was intended as a very tiny tip of the hat to one of our favorite comics writers, Alan Moore.

Pages 18–19: I think these two pages show, very graphically, how "badass" Raphael is as a fighter. When the weighted chain of the Shredder Elite snags one of Raph's hands, he makes the split-second decision to leap off the floor into the gaping hole left by the fire, trusting in his shell to protect him, while simultaneously yanking the Elite off his feet and down into the same hole… where, as we see on the next page, he gets skewered by a hunk of splintered wood.

Page 21: There's another "skewering when landing" scene on this page, only this time it's Karai who turns the tables on the Elite who will almost certainly kill her, when she desperately grabs an old floor lamp onto which the Elite fatally plummets. I wonder—has anyone ever been killed in this way in other comics?

Page 22: One of the Elite delivers a savage kick to Donatello's leg, breaking it, then boots him off the roof—a seemingly random bit of action, but one which sets up an important scene in the following issue.

$2.25 USA/$2.75 CANADA ISSUE 61 JULY 1993

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

PART TWELVE OF THE TEEN

CITY AT WAR

1

KARAI...

NO WAY... I CAN... REACH HER... IN TIME...

...BUT...

BBDDRRAAPP!

DONATELLO! ARE YOU--?

LEG'S BROKEN... BUT OTHERWISE I'M INTACT...

LET ME HELP YOU UP...

AAGH! EASY...!

4

THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE...

HMM... NOT TOO BAD...

...FROM THE OUTSIDE, ANYWAY.

BRRING!

YEAH?

HI, MRS. JONES? I'M APRIL O'NEIL-- I CALLED EARLIER?

OH, RIGHT-- YOU'RE THE YOUNG LADY WHO WANTS TO GET INTO REAL ESTATE!

C'MON IN...

THANK YOU.

WELL, THIS IS IT...

SIX APARTMENTS, INCLUDING MY OWN ON THE TOP FLOOR... PLUS A TWO-ROOM STUDIO DOWN IN THE BASEMENT.

HMM...

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR RENTS?

OH, LET'S SEE... BETWEEN $850 AND $1200 A MONTH...

...PLENTY THERE TO MAKE THE MORTGAGE PAYMENTS!

ARE THEY ALL OCCUPIED?

YUP! AND TWO OF MY TENANTS BEEN HERE OVER TEN YEARS...

WHAT ARE THE EXPENSES LIKE?

I GOT ALL LAST YEAR'S RECEIPTS TOGETHER...

...WE CAN GO OVER THEM LATER. FIRST LEMME SHOW YA AROUND THE BUILDING.

WE'LL START WITH THE BASEMENT...

6

WHY ARE YOU SELLING?

RETIREMENT TIME, HONEY!

SINCE MY HERB DIED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, I'VE SPENT ALL MY TIME MANAGING THIS BUILDING.

ONCE I SELL THE PLACE, I'M OFF TO FLORIDA!

RUNNIN' THIS PLACE AND RAISIN' A KID ALONE... WELL, IT WASN'T EASY.

YOU'LL MEET HIM...

HIM?

MY BOY, ARNOLD. HE'S HELPING ME OUT WITH THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE.

KINDA HOPING WHOEVER BUYS THE BUILDING KEEPS HIM ON...

HE'S A GOOD KID...

HMM... WELL, YOU NEVER KNOW...

7

HEY, ARNOLD!

YEAH, MA?

C'MON OUT...

...AND SAY HELLO TO THIS YOUNG LADY WHO'S INTERESTED IN OUR BUILDING!

...ME...

SURE, MA... JUST LET ME...

APRIL?!!

CASEY? OH MY GOD...!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

EH??

UH...

...DOES THIS MEAN YOU'LL TAKE IT?

8

TING

TINC

TANG

FOP

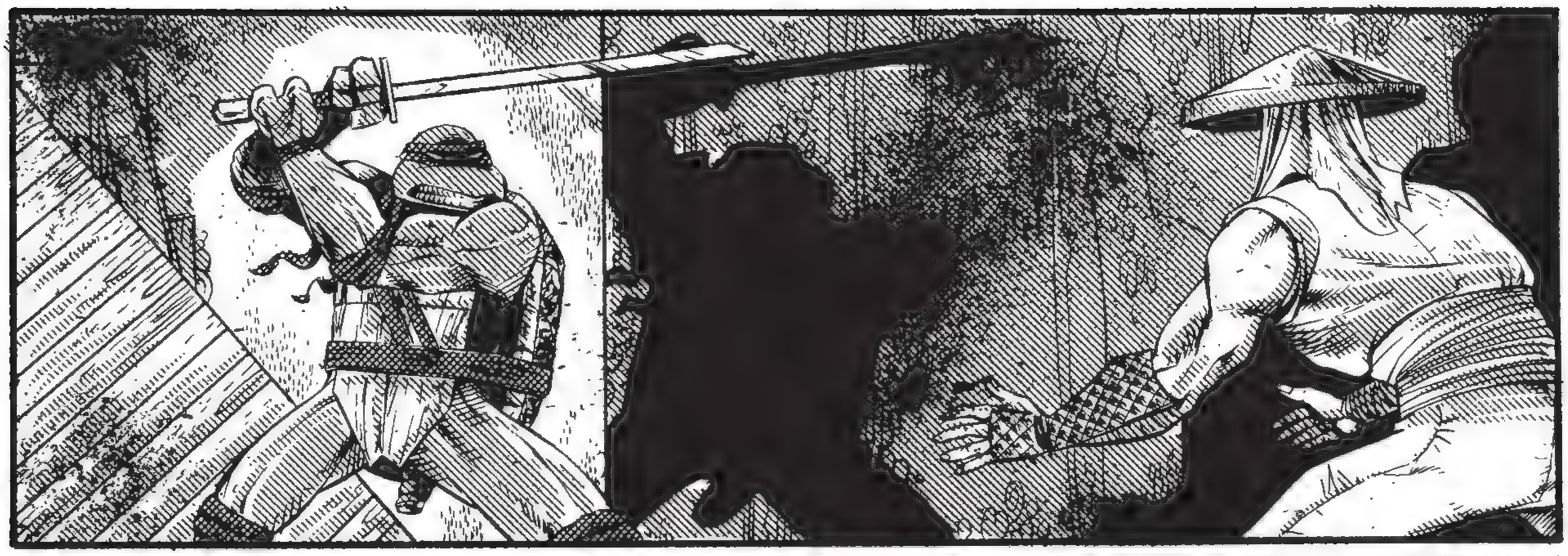
THOP!

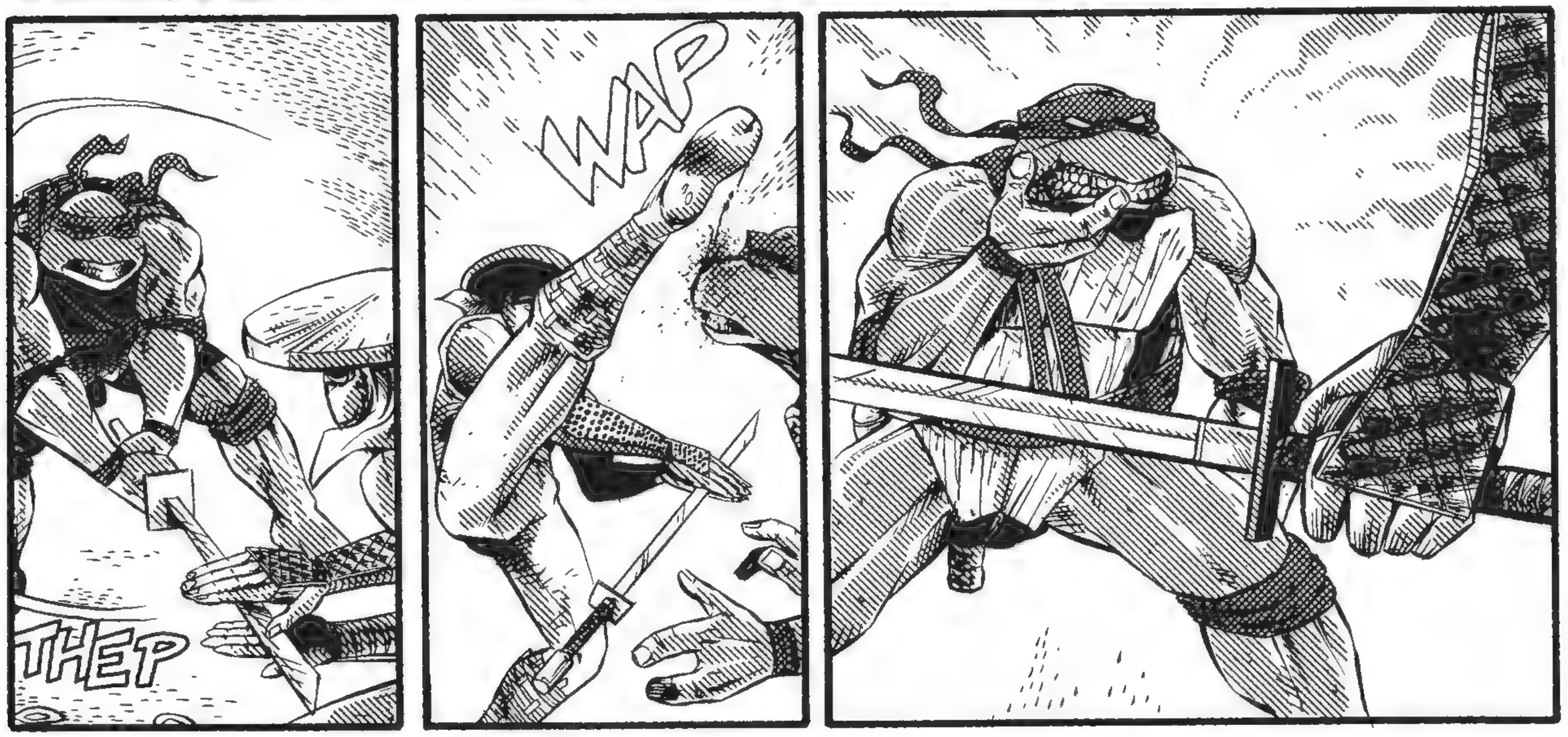
CHANG

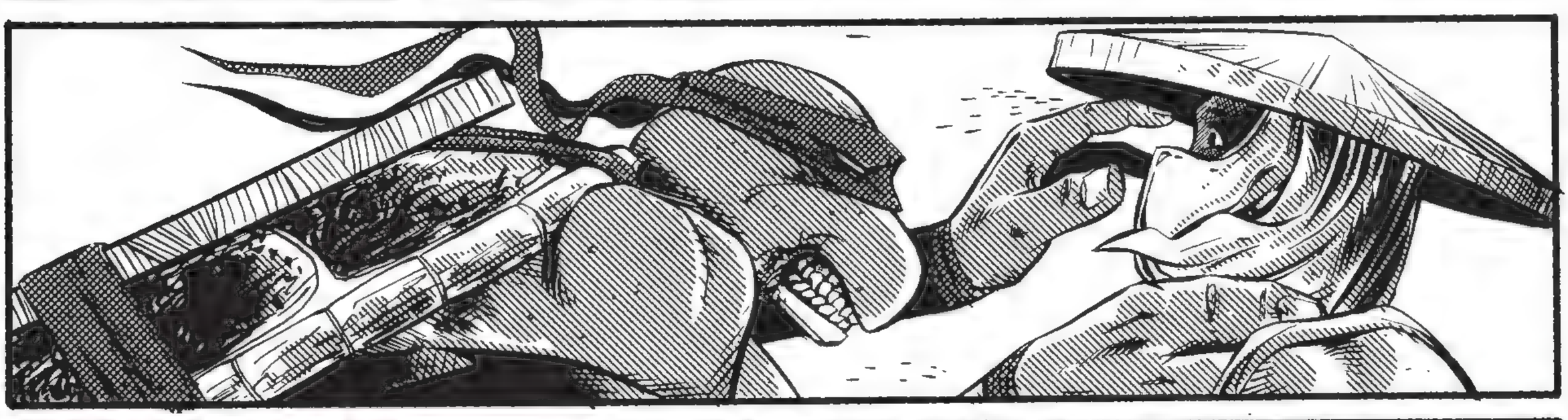
-ARGH!

TUK

BAP




THEP
WAP



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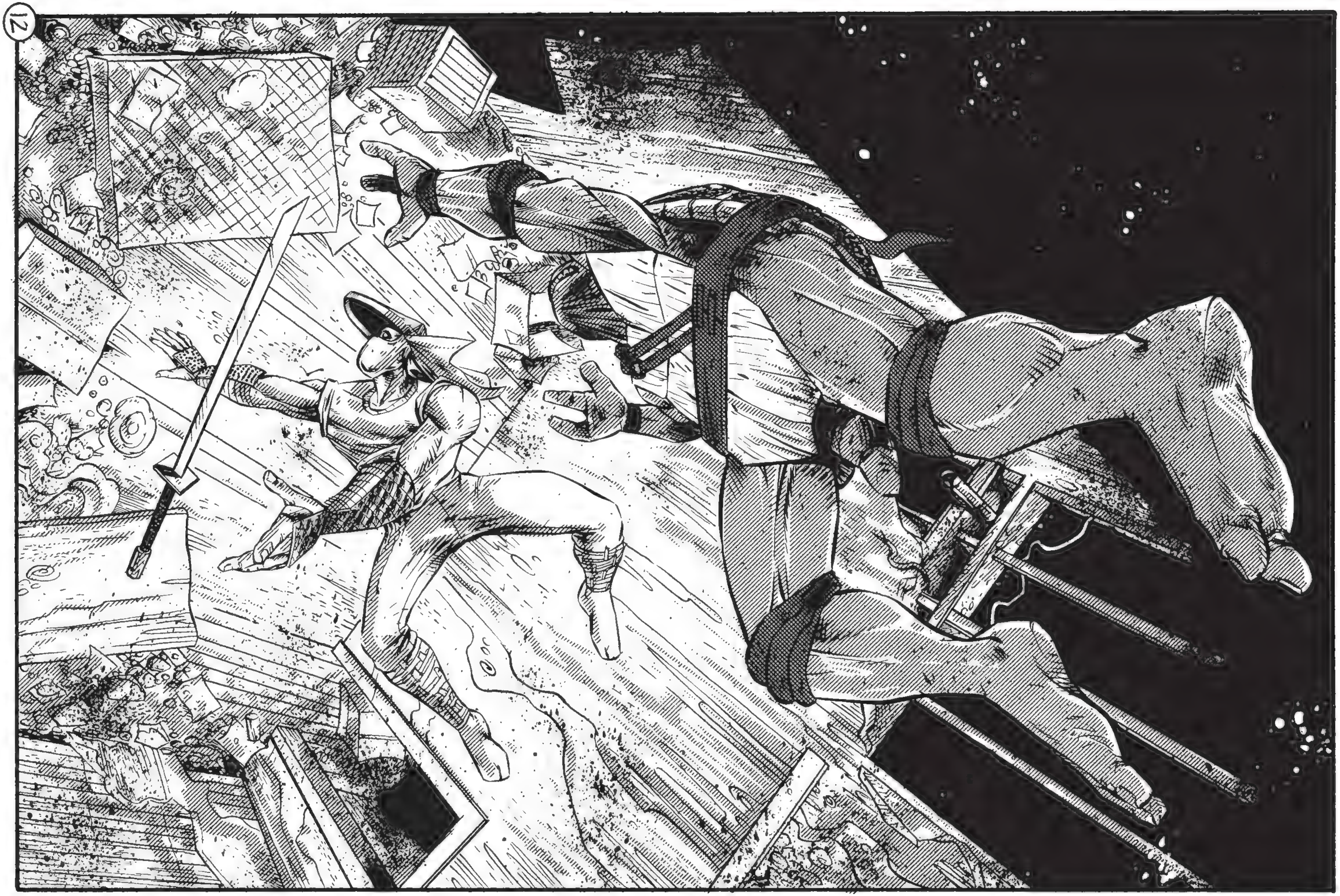


THOMP

THBASH

WHUT

THAP

13

KRASSH

THAP

WOK

14

KRAK

LEO...

IT'S OVER...

15

MR. BLKSCHEYEV..?

310

...THE DOCTOR WILL BE HERE SOON TO DISCHARGE YOU.

THANK YOU, NURSE...

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN GET FOR YOU WHILE YOU'RE WAITING...?

NO...

ZIP

...NOTHING, THANK YOU.

16

THAT TOO TIGHT?

NOPE... JUST RIGHT.

YOU IN PAIN?

A LOT...

...BUT IT'S OKAY... I CAN DEAL WITH IT.

MIKE'S MAKING A TRAVOK... WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE...

HMM... NOW HOW DOES THIS GO...?

I... I OWE YOU A GREAT DEAL...

YOU OWE US NOTHING BUT YOUR WORD, KARAI.

WE MADE A DEAL... JUST HONOR YOUR PART OF IT.

I WILL KEEP MY WORD, TURTLES. NO LONGER WILL THE FOOT CLAN BOTHER YOU. WE HAVE OUR WORLD... AND YOU WILL HAVE YOURS.

I'M JUST GLAD IT'S ALL OVER... MAYBE NOW WE CAN LIVE A NORMAL LIFE...

HAH!

17

BUT... WHAT OF THE PRICE OF THIS... PEACE? THE BLOOD SHED... THE LIVES LOST...

...BUT... CAN'T YOU SEE? FINALLY...

I'LL NOT SAY I'M PLEASED WITH THE WAY IT HAPPENED, DON...

...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR LIVES...

...WE ARE NOT IN THE SHADOW OF THE SHREDDER.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, KARA!?...

...WHAT WILL YOU DO?

ONCE THE REORGANIZATION OF THE FOOT IN NEW YORK IS COMPLETED, I WILL RETURN--BRIEFLY--TO JAPAN.

THERE... I WILL SPREAD THE ASHES OF MY DAUGHTER ON ASANA BAY AND PERHAPS ...BEGIN THE HEALING OF MY RAVAGED HEART.

I'M... SORRY...

18

BUT EVEN MY GRIEF CANNOT INTRUDE ON MY DUTIES. THE COMPANY'S--THE CLAN'S--INTERESTS SUPERSEDE ALL ELSE.

IT DOES ME NO GOOD TO WISH IT WERE OTHERWISE.

CAN'T YOU CHANGE THINGS?

PERHAPS...SOMEDAY. BUT FOR NOW IT IS MY PATH...

...AS YOUR PATH, UNTIL TODAY, HAS BEEN ONE OF VENGEANCE AND REPRISAL. THIS PATH HAS ENDED, AS LIFE HAS OFFERED YOU A NEW BEGINNING...

USE THIS OPPORTUNITY WELL.

WE WILL, KARAI...
...WE WILL.
THE END

ANNOTATIONS

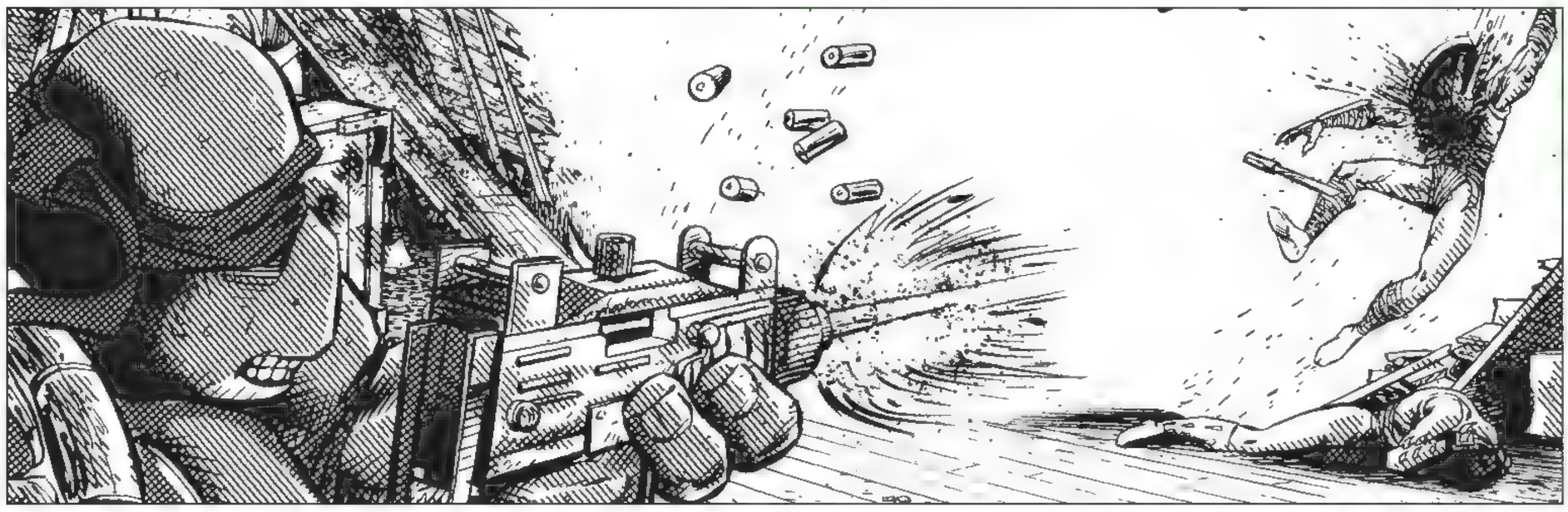
KEVIN EASTMAN

Jason Temujin Minor returns for the inking chores for this issue, and it blends with Keith and Jim's work perfectly. Honestly, Jim's pencils, if you've ever seen some of his original finished pages before going to the inker, are so strong, and Jason does a great job carrying that power through to the final stages of inking and DuoShade. I am clearly reminded as to why Jim remains a fan favorite among the TMNT fans, especially with his later work with Peter and Eric Talbot as his main inker.

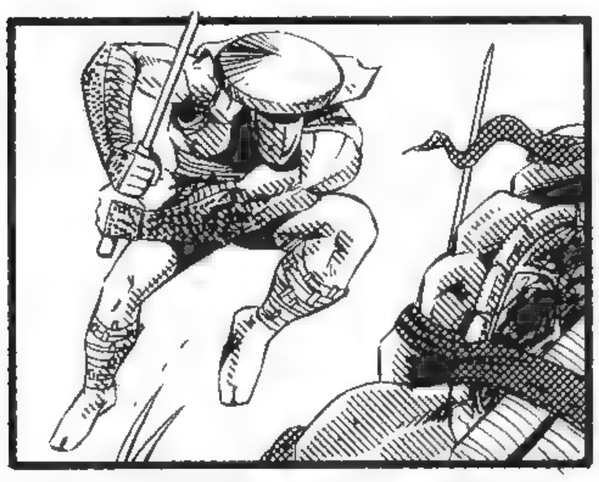
PETER LAIRD

Pages 1–4: As this issue opens, we pick up from the scene in the last issue where Karai is about to be dispatched by a Shredder Elite. Donatello, stunned, his leg broken, looks on, helplessly—in the shape he's in, he can't get across the room quickly enough to help her… but then he sees a submachine gun dropped by one of the Foot ninja. He grabs it and cuts down the Elite in a hail of bullets…

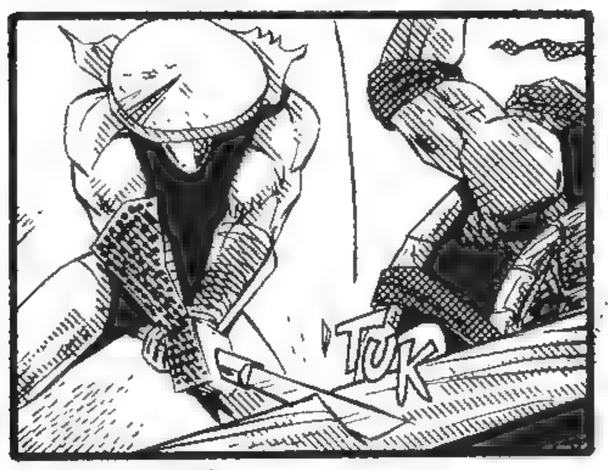
… and then tosses it away, his distaste for what he's just done evident in the gesture.



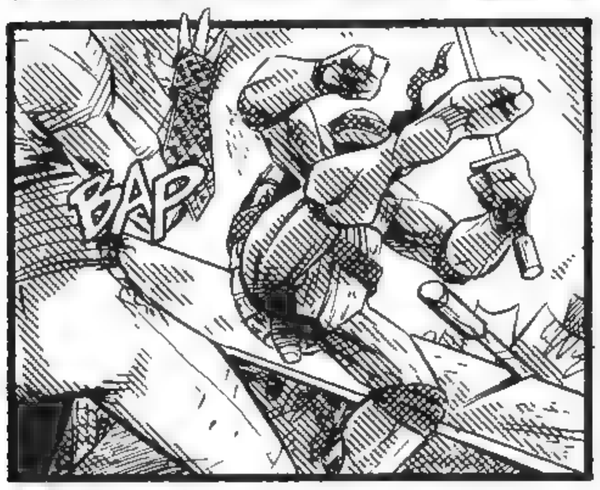
Pages 1–4: The opening splash is awesome. And even though I did a later version of the TMNTs using a gun, like my work with Simon Bisley in "Bodycount," I'm pretty sure this is the first time we ever showed one of the guys using a weapon in this way: a gun, used to save Karai, the very person who could become a powerful enemy but the result—another enemy's death—is the same. Donatello has to make a VERY difficult decision.



Pages 8: I think one of my favorite scenes, although in retrospect it might seem more than a little far-fetched, is the Casey and April reunion, where April invests her inheritance by buying an apartment building from Casey's mom—where he has just moved back in with the baby Shadow. Neat setup and play-out.



Pages 9-15: Leo's final showdown with the foot Elite in this issue is as good a fight scene as ever done in one of the TMNT books. Personally, I think it firmly ranks up there with the Leo one-shot, and some of the work Peter and I did in the "Return to New York" series. Very dramatic, well choreographed and a solid resolution to the partnership with Karai and the Elite.



Pages 18: The wrap-up for Karai is excellent. She is going to return to Japan to deal with her daughter's death, but clearly lays out her new position as head of the Foot Clan. As much as she'd like to change it, change is difficult, but this situation offers them both a new beginning. The TMNTs for the moment get to live without the shadow of the Foot upon them, and Karai will return… for better or worse.

We also get to wrap up Nate's hospital stay with a big question mark: where to next? A solid question for all of them, really...

Pages 5–8: Here we go with one of those fairly far-out wacky coincidences that we loved to use in the TMNT books: April, searching for a piece of real estate in which to invest the money from her father's will, comes to visit one such property… and it turns out to be the building that Casey Jones' mother is selling! A happy reunion follows.

Pages 9–15: Jim did some great fight choreography here, in this very intense battle between Leonardo and the last Shredder Elite.

Page 17–20: In the second panel on page 17, Leo is telling Don that Mike is making a "travois" to help get him to safety. I don't remember why we chose that idea, but as I read this issue now, it seems an odd choice, given that a travois is a construction made from three poles and a blanket, and then dragged. How would that have worked, I wonder, given that this scene took place not in the woods of Northampton, but in a burned-out building in the middle of New York City?

But that's a minor point in a scene wherein the truce with Karai and the Foot is settled, something which is actually very important to what comes next in the Turtles' lives. As Leo says to Don, "… for the first time in our lives… we are not in the shadow of the Shredder."

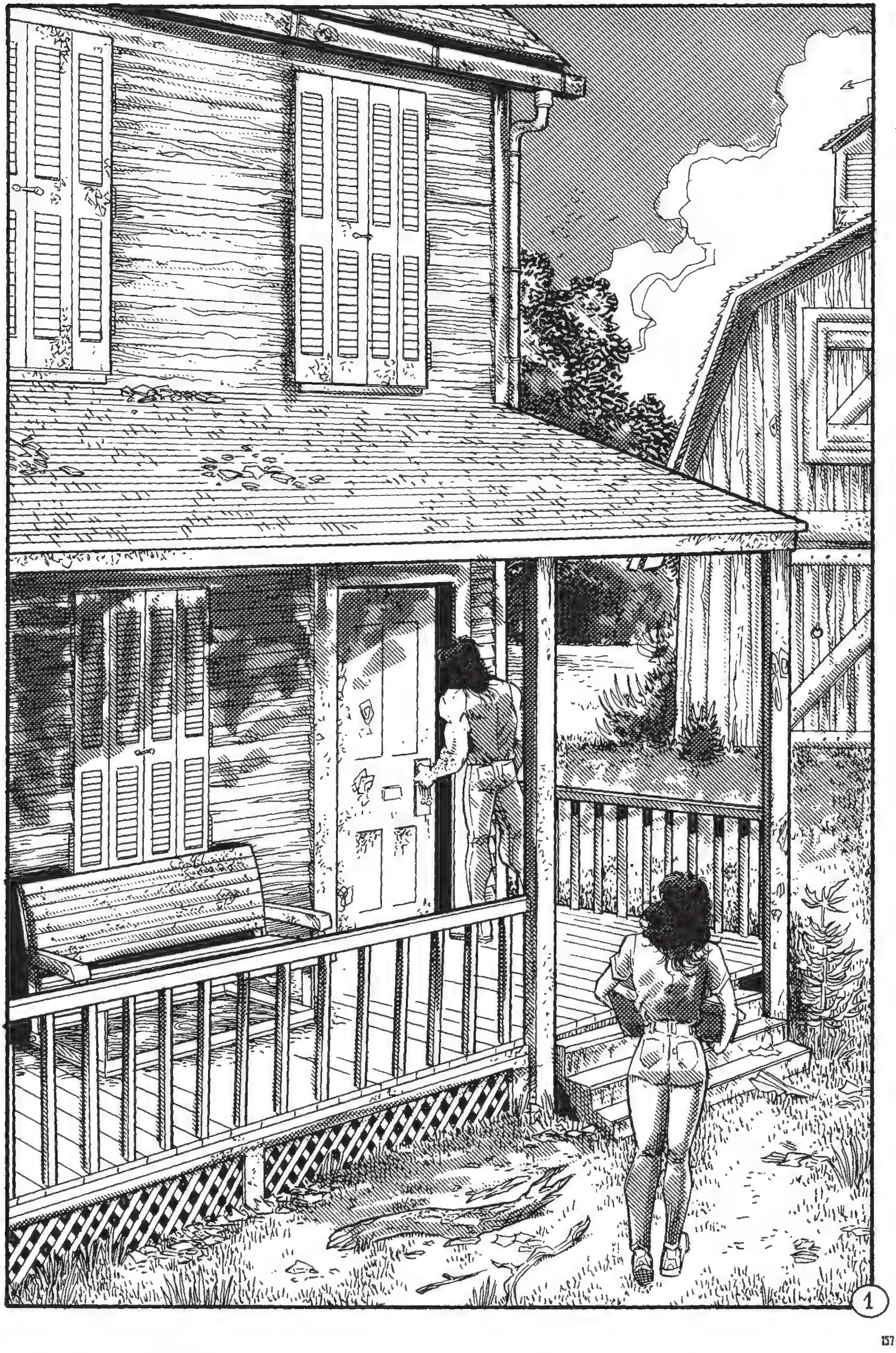
$2.25 USA/$2.75 CANADA ISSUE 62 AUGUST 1993

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

PART THIR

CITY AT WAR

62


1

SNIF

SMELLS KINDA FUNKY...

...LET'S GET SOME WINDOWS OPEN.

CAREFUL, BABE, THERE'S BROKEN GLASS OVER THERE...

WHAT BROKE?

LOOKS LIKE THE LIGHT FIXTURE FELL.

WHAT A MESS!

MOSTLY JUST DUST... NOBODY'S LIVED HERE FOR MONTHS.

I'LL WARM UP A BOTTLE CASEY.

HEY, L'IL SHADOW... YOU HUNGRY?

GLAH?

UGH--THE WATER'S BROWN!

IT'S BEEN SITTING IN THE PIPES-- LET IT RUN AWHILE.

KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO BRING BACK?

NOPE, NOT REALLY... MY WEIGHT BENCH... THE SOFA, MAYBE.

I'M SURE THERE'LL BE MORE.

I'M GONNA RENT ONE OF THOSE U-HAUL TRAILERS TOMORROW ...OR MAYBE A TRUCK.

HEY...

...RECOGNIZE THIS?

MY ONE-MILLIONTH CORVETTE COMMEMORATIVE BEER MUG!

ALL RIGHT!

COOL! LOOK, SHADOW, CAN YOU SAY "CORVETTE"?

WHERE WAS IT?

IN THE CUPBOARD.

THPBHT!

3

EXCELLENT DINNER, APRIL...

THANK YOU, SIR!

Y'KNOW, IT SEEMS FUNNY, EATIN' DINNER AT THIS TABLE...

...JUST LIKE OLD TIMES ...IT'S LIKE WE NEVER LEFT!

WELL... ONE THING'S SURE DIFFERENT...

WHAT'S THAT?

I'LL DO THE DISHES.

GREAT! THEN WHEN SHADOW FALLS ASLEEP...

...YOU CAN TELL ME A BEDTIME STORY!

4

MMMHMMMHMM...

LA LA LA--

HM?

WHAT'S THAT, CASE?

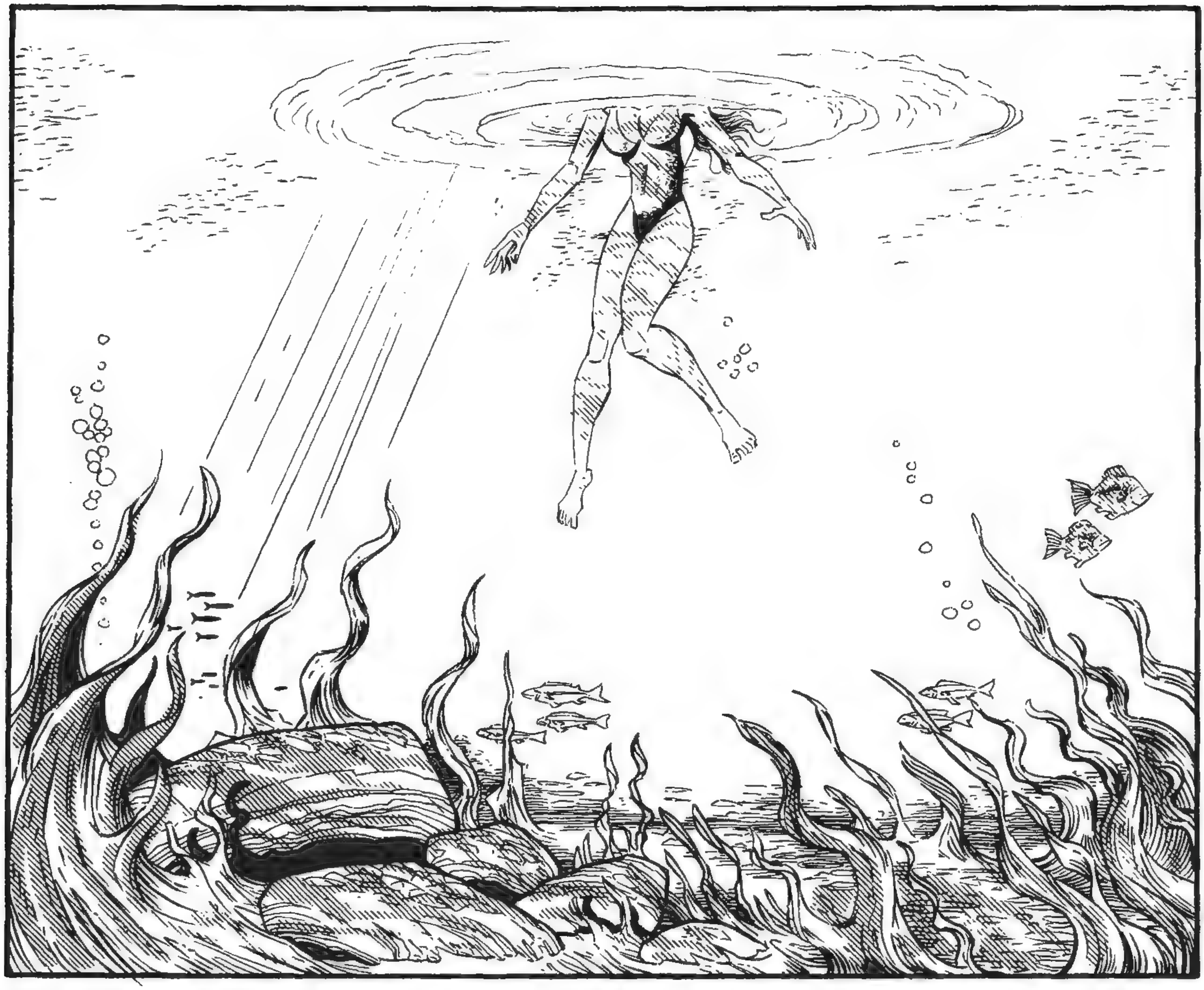
IT'S LEO'S KNIFE... HIS AIKUCHI, HE CALLED IT...

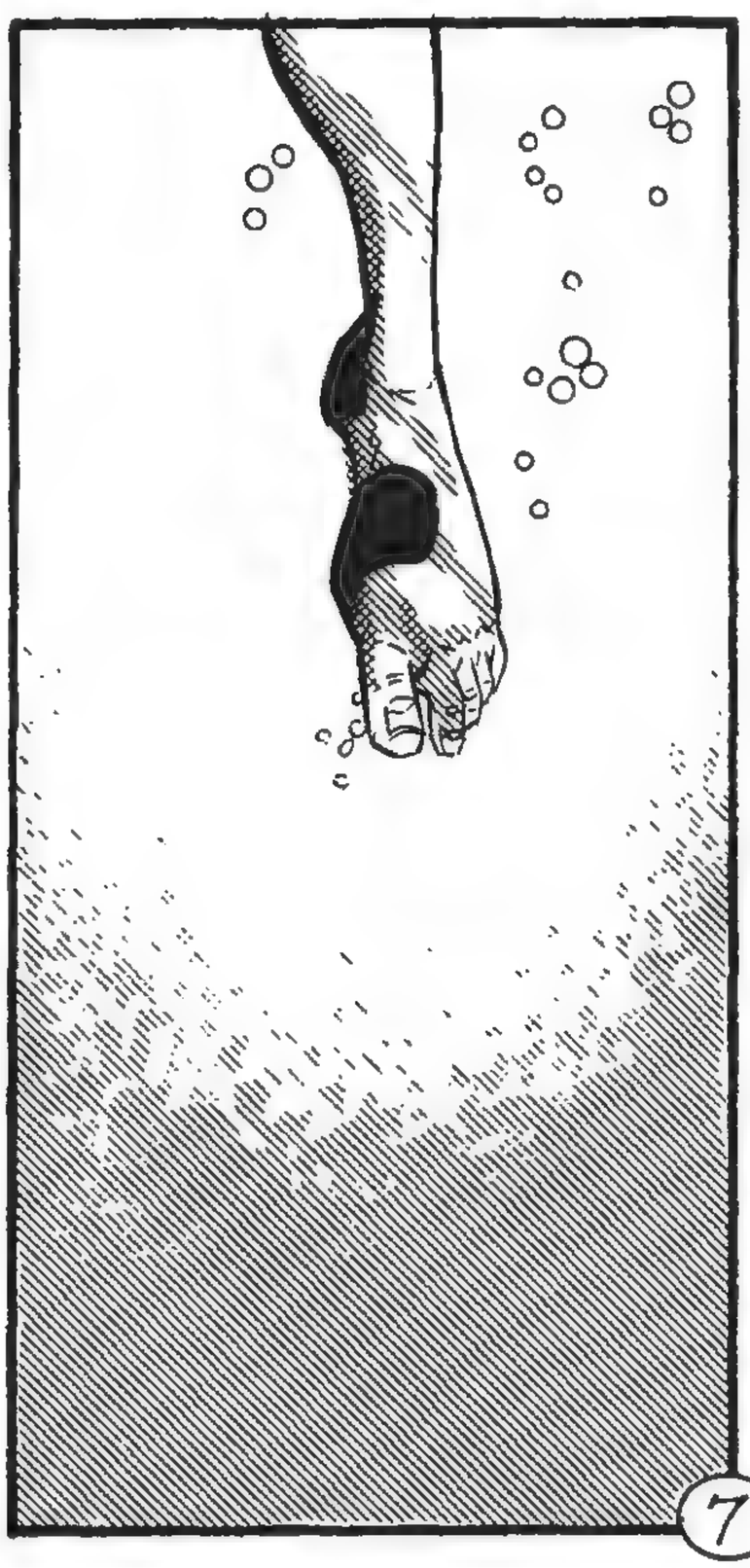
I WONDER WHERE THEY ARE NOW...

AAAHHH!

THIS FEELS GREAT!

6





AH?
AAAK--!
WHAT...?
BLGG
APRIL?
APRIL--!!
W-WHOA!

YOU GUYS--! SCARE ME HALF TO DEATH--!

HEY, CASEMEISTER!

AW, C'MON--

YOU KNEW IT WAS US; ADMIT IT!

MIKEY! LEO! RAPH!

AW...

BIG HUG, MIKE!

YECH!

HOW SWEET!

YOU TOO, LEO!

I THINK I'M GONNA PUKE...

RAPH--!

YA BIG KNOB--THINK I WAS GONNA HUG YOU, TOO?

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, CASEMAN!

GOW?

UH...CARE TO FILL US IN...?

JEEZ..HAVE WE BEEN GONE THAT LONG?

SO, AFTER GABE'S FUNERAL, SHADOW AND I CAME TO NEW YORK TO STAY WITH MY MOM...

AND YOU GUYS MET UP IN THE BIG APPLE BY ACCIDENT?

YEAH! GET THIS...I'M WORKIN' ON THE FURNACE ONE DAY, I LOOK UP --AND THERE SHE IS!

WELL, THERE'S A LITTLE MORE TO THE STORY THAN THAT...

I'M BUYING HIS MOM'S APARTMENT BUILDING!

APRIL, ABOUT YOUR FATHER ...WE'RE SORRY...

S'OK...

CASEY AND SHADOW AND I ARE GOING TO LIVE THERE.

OH...I GOT THE MONEY FROM MY DADS ESTATE...HE DIED LAST MONTH.

I THINK SHE LIKES YOU, MIKE...

YEAH! A YOUNG MISS OF UNIMPEACHABLE GOOD TASTE!

GOOTCHY GOO!

CAN YOU SAY "TURTLE"?

THBPHT!

HEY, WHERE'S DON?

HE'S...WITH SPLINTER.

LATER

... SO, CASEY AND APRIL HAVE TO BE BACK IN NEW YORK TOMORROW AND WE WERE GOING TO CATCH A RIDE WITH THEM...

...YOU FEEL UP TO IT?

12

NO... I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND I'M GOING TO STAY HERE WITH SPLINTER.

HUH?

YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS, DON?

YEAH... I... I NEED SOME TIME TO... REFLECT ON EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED...

MY MIND AND MY BODY NEED RECUPERATIVE TIME ...AND SPLINTER HAS AGREED TO HELP ME.

WELL, I--

DONATELLO'S DECISION...HAS BEEN MADE.

YES, MASTER SPLINTER.. AS YOU WISH.

YOU TWO SHOULD AT LEAST STAY IN THE FARMHOUSE-- I MEAN, IT'S JUST SITTING THERE EMPTY...

I DON'T KNOW, APRIL... IF STRANGERS CAME TO THE HOUSE...

JUST THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY? YOU KNOW WHERE THE KEYS ARE.

NOT THAT I'D NEED THEM, BUT... THANKS, APRIL.

IT'S GETTIN' DARK, BABE...

YEAH. I GUESS WE SHOULD SAY OUR GOODBYES. SPLINTER--

SPLINTER?

HE'S GONE...

PLEASE... DON'T THINK ILL OF HIM. HE... WHILE WE WERE GONE, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM...

SOMETHING THAT HE'S BEEN UNWILLING TO TALK ABOUT.

I... SEE.

RIGHT...

C'MON, APRIL... DON, TELL SPLINTER ...TELL HIM GOODBYE FOR US, OKAY?

I WILL...

LET'S GO, GUYS!

SEE YOU GUYS SOON, I HOPE--!

YOU BET, DUDE!

TAKE CARE, DON!

CASEY... CAN I HAVE A FEW MINUTES ALONE?

SURE, BABE...

16

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE THERE, SPLINTER... IF YOU CAN HEAR ME.

IF YOU CAN... I WANT YOU TO KNOW... MY FATHER DIED RECENTLY. MY DAD -- HE RAISED ME, TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT LIFE, HOW TO BE A GOOD PERSON.

I LOVED HIM. I STILL DO. HE'S GONE NOW, BUT...

...THE LAST FEW YEARS, I'VE FELT THAT I'VE HAD TWO FATHERS AND... AND...

I'VE LOVED THEM BOTH.

GOODBYE, SPLINTER.

APRIL...

...DAUGHTER.

TAXI

19

EXIT

THIS IS IT... NUMBER 222.

222

HERE Y'GO, MR. BUKSCHEYEV.

KITCHEN'S OVER HERE AND THE BATHROOM AND BEDROOM ARE THRU THERE.

GOT ANY QUESTIONS?

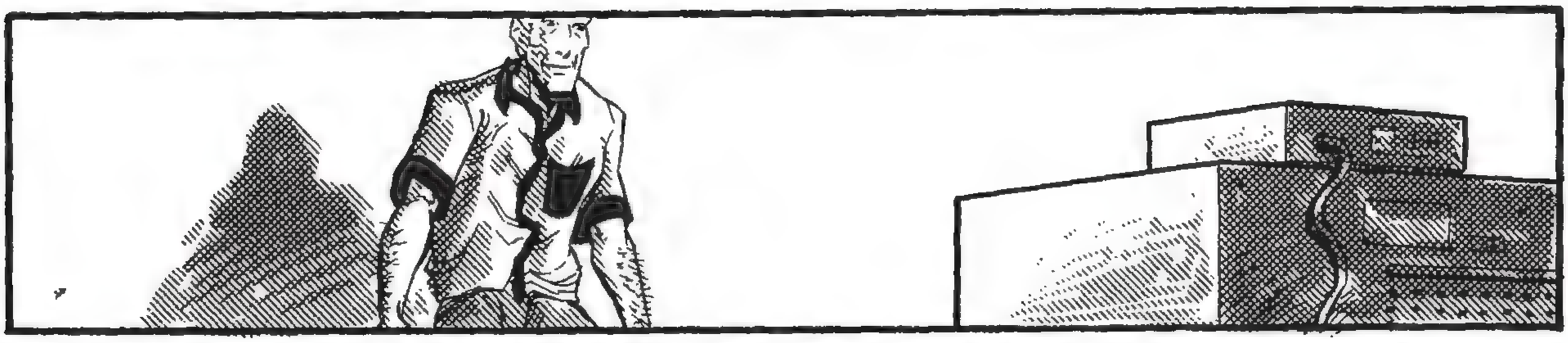
NO... THANK YOU.

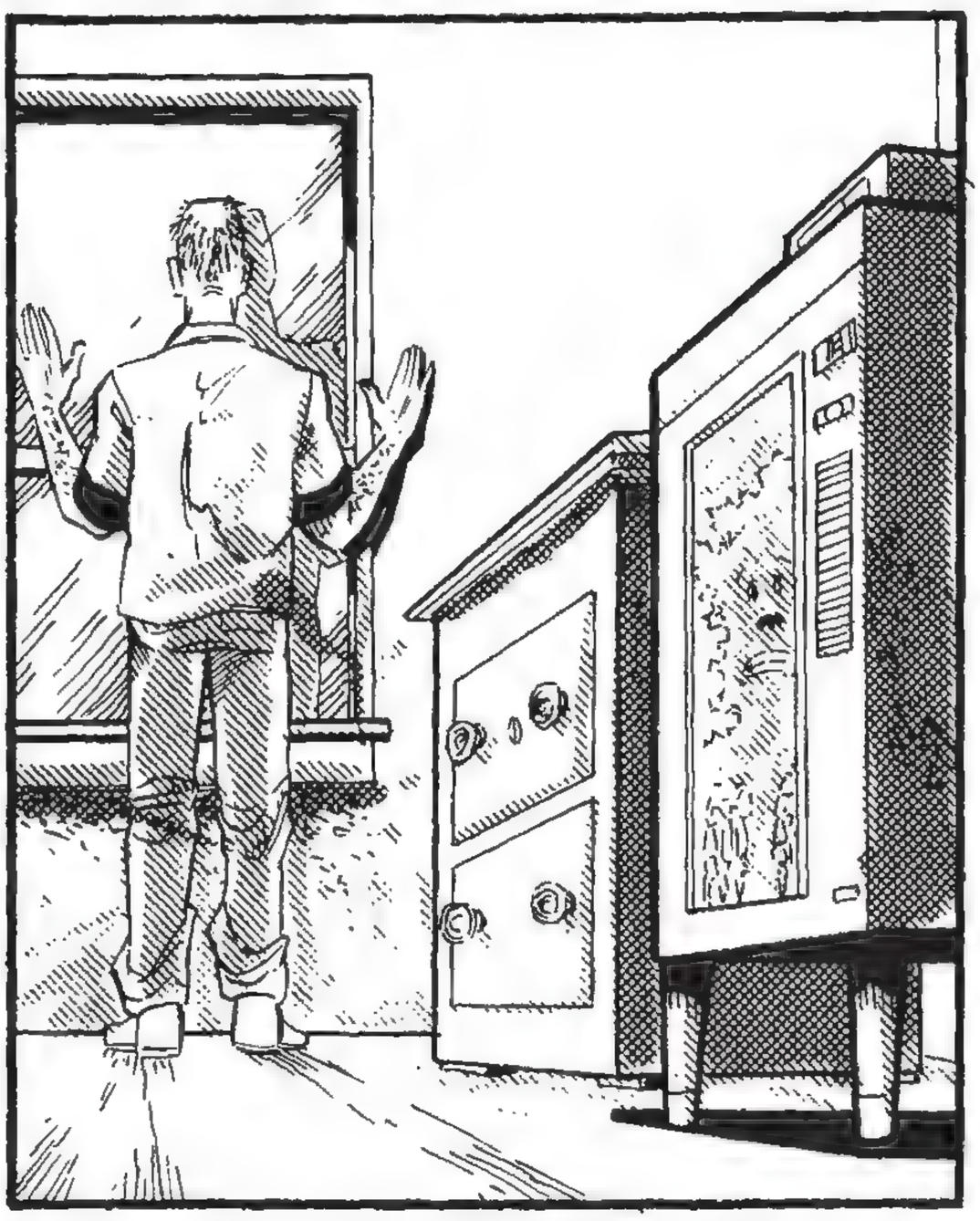
I'LL BE BY NEXT WEEK TO CHECK UP ON YOU.

GOOD LUCK, MR. BUKSCHEYEV!

THE DIRECTOR, MRS. BRODERICK, WILL COME BY TODAY TO INTRODUCE HERSELF AND TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH THE FACILITIES.

20





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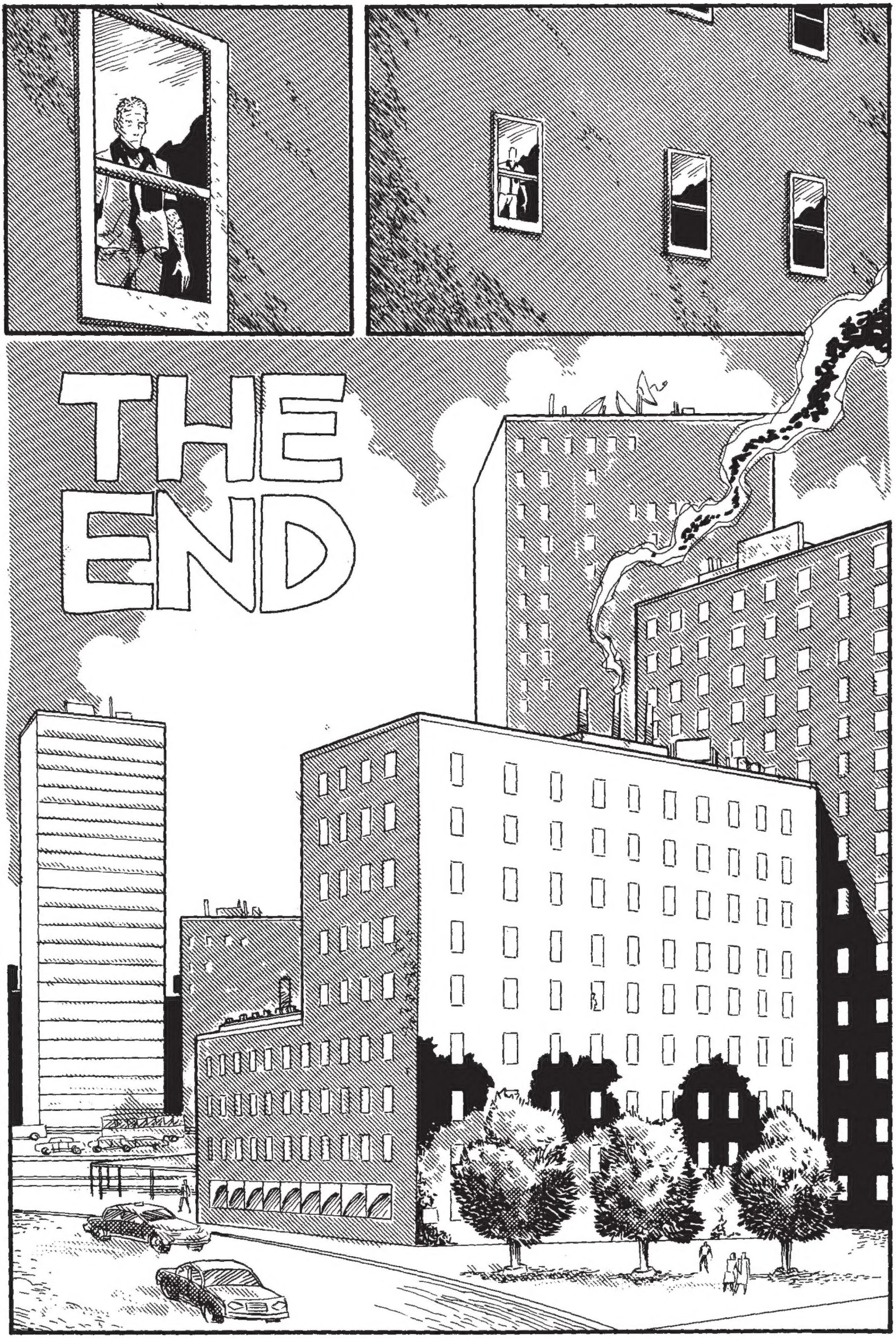

THE END

ANNOTATIONS

KEVIN EASTMAN

I think the wrap-up for the "City at War" run is perfect, at least for the intent the series had, and what we wanted to say within it. As I mentioned earlier, while Peter and I might have laid out all the broad strokes for the entire run, it was really Pete, with Jim (and of course Keith and Justin) who made it what it is. Which at that time was the end of the run of TMNT black-and-white stories, as shortly thereafter there was a run of 13 full-color stories, which I also didn't have a lot to do with, but enjoyed quite a lot.

I like that the final scenes were all done up at the farmhouse in Massachusetts. When we brought them there in issues ten and eleven, not only was it where we lived (and Peter's Mirage Studios still is), we could relate to it better, and tell our own kind of stories; but most of all, it felt like a "safe" place for the guys to reflect and recharge, if you will.

Page 1: When Casey and April return, with Shadow, it just felt natural and very sweet. They both accepted and embraced the relationship, having grown from their time apart, something we all need from time to time. Also, I liked to see them as a team, moving in the same direction and wanting the same things: wanting to be a family—a family of misfits, and a good one—including the TMNTs and Splinter, of course.

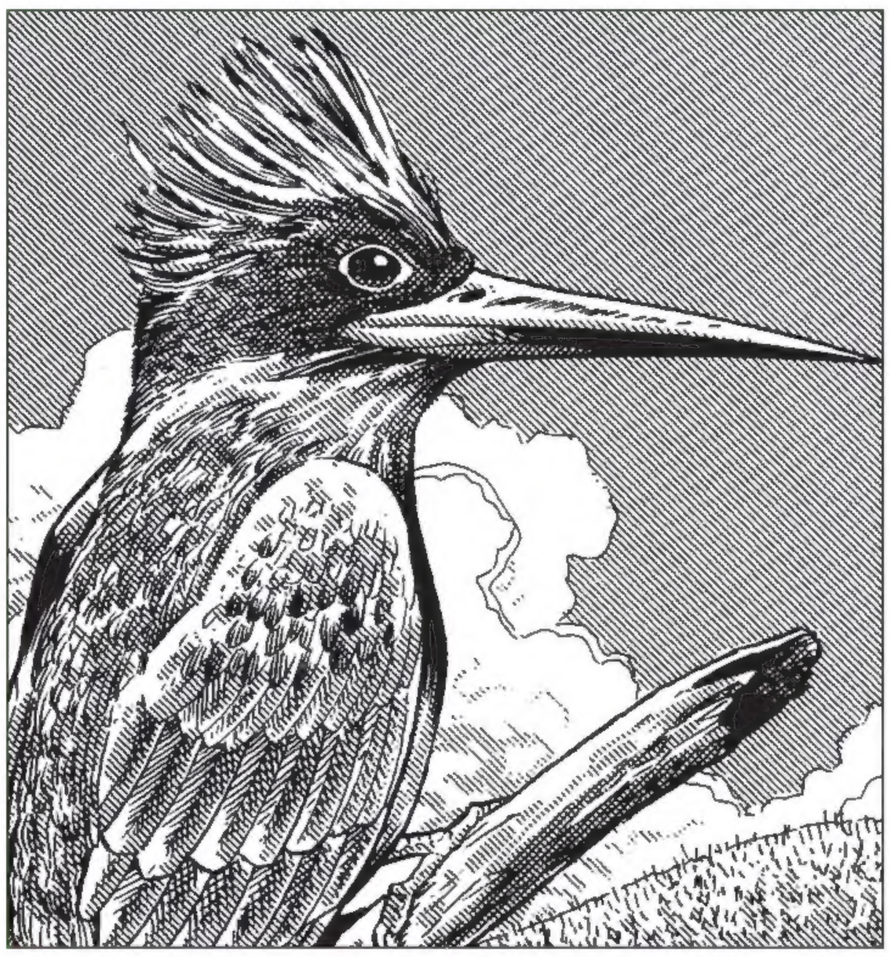
Page 13: With Casey and April returning to New York to manage the apartment building, and the TMNTs wanting to return to their home there as well, I thought it was quite fitting to have Splinter want to stay behind and process the last part of his journey, but even cooler that Donatello wanted to stay behind with him. We had always designed and intended the relationship between the two to be a little stronger than the rest. Not so much a "favorite son" kinda thing, but heading in the same spiritual direction—they relate more.

Page 17: One of my favorite moments is the scene between April and Splinter, where she needs to confess he was a father figure for her, and he calls her "Daughter." I thought it was wonderfully staged and heartfelt, a moment not always easy to realize in real life.

Page 20: The final scene of the entire run being of Nate's relocation to a state-funded "retirement"-style home, was one that we always intended. Nate being alone, a stranger in a strange city, watching his homeland implode, and then being an innocent hurt by a "City at War" that he played no role in was tragic enough. Once healed, he is put in a place where he has a second chance at starting a new life, but as he looks out at the complex he now lives in, is it bittersweet? For better or worse, it is completely up to him to make something different of it—or not. Pretty much the same choices we all have.

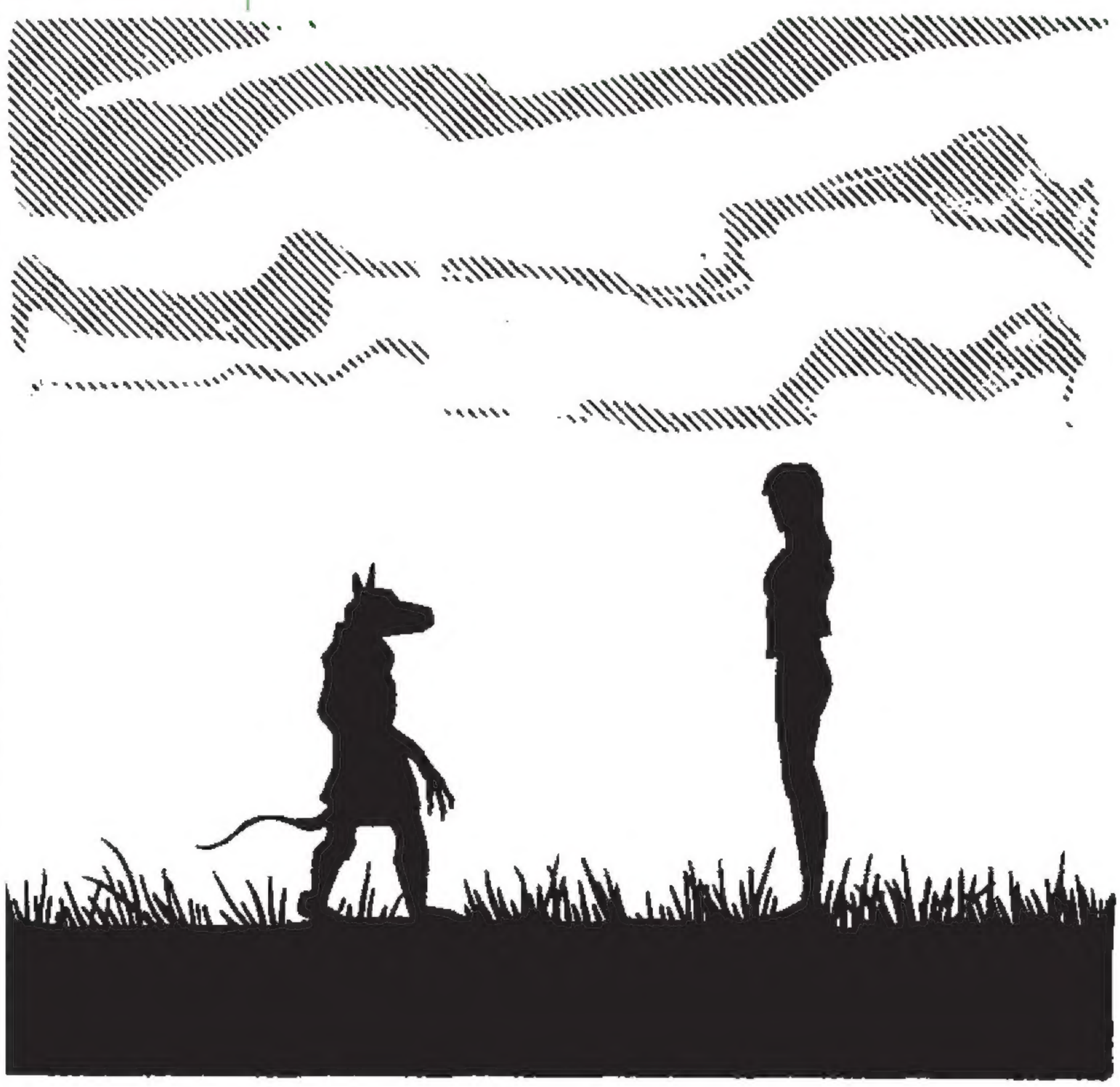
PETER LAIRD

As we wrote in the editorial comment on the inside front cover of the original run, "This is an issue of conclusions." It wraps up the "City at War" story, and also concludes the original run of the black-and-white "Volume One" Mirage TMNT comics, as we would shortly begin publishing the short-lived TMNT color series.



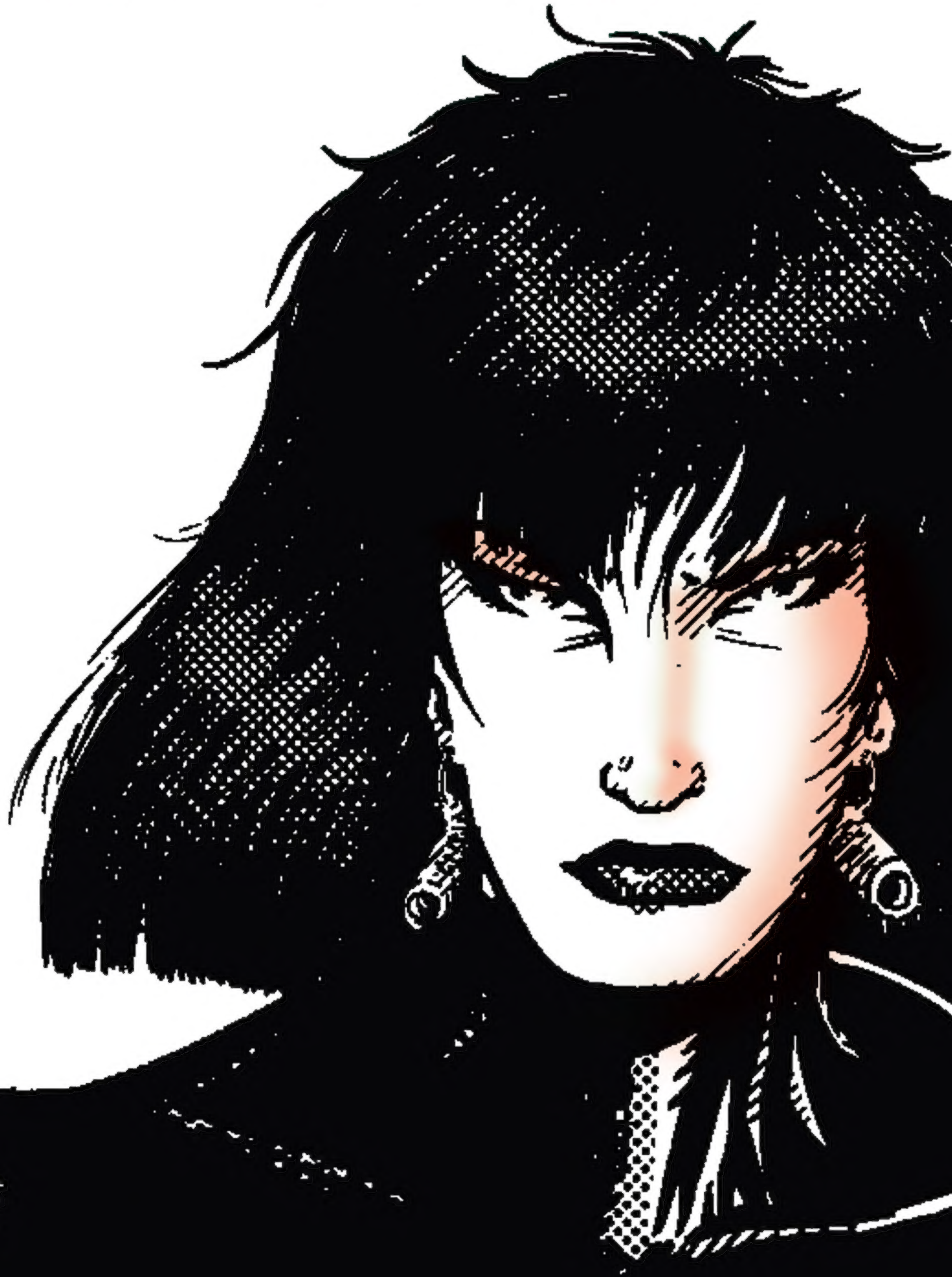
Pages 6-7: Did I not say earlier that Jim Lawson has a knack for drawing nature stuff? Look at that beautiful kingfisher on page 6 and the fish on page 7.

Pages 16–18: I know, I'm a sucker for sentiment, but I've always really liked this short scene wherein April and Splinter bond once again.



TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION, VOLUME 5



TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:
THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION,
VOL. 5 INCLUDES:

- MIRAGE STUDIOS TMNT ISSUES #56–62
- THE CONCLUSION TO THE EPIC "CITY AT WAR" STORYLINE
- ANNOTATIONS BY KEVIN EASTMAN & PETER LAIRD
- AND MORE!

IDW